

Bomb explodes at French embassy

TEHRAN (R) — A bomb attached to a diplomat's car exploded Wednesday in the compound of the French embassy in Tehran but no injuries were reported, Charge d'Affaires Jean Perrin said. He told Reuters that an Armenian guerrilla organisation, the Orly Group, had telephoned the French news agency AFP in Tehran to claim responsibility for the blast, the latest in a series of Armenian attacks on French targets in Iran. Mr. Perrin said the bomb-made time bomb apparently had been attached to the rear underside of the car while parked outside a restaurant where the diplomat was having lunch. It exploded about 45 minutes after the diplomat had parked the car inside the walled compound of the tightly-guarded embassy. Mr. Perrin said the blast wrecked the back of the car, but caused no other damage.

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Arafat, N.Yemeni leader hold talks

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat discussed Middle East developments with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sana'a Wednesday. The Saudi Press Agency reported. The agency gave no details of the talks. But said Mr. Arafat chaired a meeting of the Palestinian Supreme Military Council Tuesday night shortly after arriving in Sana'a from Tunis. The council reviewed the situation in Israeli-occupied Arab territory, developments in Lebanon and formed a four-man military commission to supervise a ceasefire between rival factions in Mr. Arafat's Fatah commando group, it said.

Syria rejects moves to solve pipeline dispute with Iraq

BAHRAIN (R) — Syria's oil minister Wednesday rejected interference by Arab oil producers in its dispute with Iraq over the closure of a pipeline carrying Iraqi oil across Syrian territory to the Mediterranean. The Kuwaiti News Agency, KUWAH, quoted the minister, Abdul Jabbar Al Dajhah, as saying Syria rejected interference in its decision not to allow Iraqi oil to cross its territory. He said the decision was political, not legal, and was a matter of sovereignty for Syria, which supports Iraq in its 35-month-old war with Iraq.

Kuwait pledges support for Libya

KUWAH (R) — Kuwait said Wednesday it supported Libya against any foreign aggression and hoped the United States would avoid military confrontation with an Arab country. Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Kuwait's elected prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, told reporters after a meeting with Libyan Ambassador Hosni Saleh Al Mudeer that "Kuwait will support Libya, and any Arab country facing foreign aggression." But I sincerely hope relations between the U.S. and Libya will not reach a state of military confrontation," he said.

S.Yemen seeks help on Omani pact

ABU DHABI (R) — South Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister Anis Hassan Yahya arrived here Wednesday to seek the help of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in implementing a reconciliation agreement with Oman. Official sources described the visit as an attempt by South Yemen to speed the implementation of the pact, which called for normalisation of relations after 15 years of hostility between the neighbours.

Gandhi to visit Greece, Cyprus and U.N.

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, will leave next month for visits to Greece, Cyprus and the United Nations in New York, a government spokesman said Wednesday. Mrs. Gandhi will fly to Athens on Sept. 22 for a two-day official visit before going on to attend a United Nations General Assembly session. The spokesman said she would stay in New York until Oct. 1 or 2, and visit Cyprus on her return leg to India.

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6 killed in shell and rocket attacks on airport

3 Lebanese ministers kidnapped

BEIRUT (R) — Three Lebanese cabinet ministers were kidnapped by armed men in the Druze-dominated Shouf mountains Wednesday after a day of heavy rocket and shell attacks on Beirut airport which killed six people, official sources said.

The ministers had been empowered by an emergency cabinet session to intercede with the leader of Lebanon's Druze community, Sheikh Mohammad Abu Shaqra, to end fighting between Druze militiamen and the army, the sources said.

Urgent efforts were in hand to secure the release of the ministers from their captors, they added. The three prisoners were named as Finance Minister Adel Hamdy, a Druze, Health Minister Adnan Mrowe, a Shi'ite Muslim, and Public Works Minister Pierre Khoury, a Maronite Christian.

Officials did not identify the captors, but the right-wing Falangist radio said they were members of the mainly-Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) which earlier admitted attacking an army post in the Shouf.

State-controlled television said the ministers were kidnapped at the house of Sheikh Abu Shaqra, in the Druze mountain village of A'mara.

The mountains are under the overall control of Israeli troops, who have allowed Druze and right-wing gunmen to battle for supremacy since they overran the area in June last year. Beirut residents could not immediately recall a recent instance of government ministers being kidnapped and it appeared to mark a new stage in Druze opposition to the administration of rightist President Amin Gemayel.

President Gemayel and Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan immediately went into a crisis meeting at the presidential palace to seek ways of having the ministers released.

Iraqis continue air raids against Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi jets and helicopter gunships Wednesday attacked Iranian targets on the northern and central Gulf war fronts, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment, a military communiqué said.

The communiqué, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said the planes made 141 sorties in the central sector near the Iranian border town of Mehran, destroying a column of vehicles and a tank carrier.

On the northern front, where Iranian troops launched a cross-border thrust through the Kurdish mountains on July 23, the agency said helicopter gunships supporting ground troops attacked positions near Haj Omran.

Earlier, Iraq said its forces had repulsed an Iranian attempt to occupy a strategic peak overlooking Haj Omran and the nearby town of Rayat and wiped out the attacking force.

The peak appeared to be near Mount Kardehend, 2,500 metres, the summit of which fell to Iran on Aug. 4 and recaptured later by Iraq after some of the fiercest fighting in the 35-month-old war.

The latest communiqué did not report any ground action in the central sector. Iraq said Tuesday night that its troops had withdrawn from Iranian territory near Mehran, 160 kilometres off Baghdad, after achieving their objectives.

Iraq hopes for early end
Meanwhile, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz said Wednesday his country hoped for an early end to the Gulf war and would welcome any peace efforts based on goodwill initiatives. Japan's Kyodo news agency said.

Kidnapping and murder are tactics used by both rightists and Druze—century-old rivals—in the mountain war. But previously government figures have been given safe conduct.

Earlier, more than 20 shells and rockets slammed into Beirut International Airport as intense artillery duels raged in the surrounding hills.

The shelling began after fighting erupted between Druze militiamen and an isolated Lebanese army post in the Shouf mountains.

Responding to the attack, Lebanon's leading rightist politician was quoted as saying: "Let the war take place."

State-run Beirut Radio reported later that the three ministers were "safe" in the Palace of Druze Chieftain and leftist opposition leader Walid Junblatt in the Shouf mountain town of Moukhtara, a kilometre or two from the scene of their abduction.

As fighting continued between predominantly Christian rightists and Druze militias, Pierre Gemayel, leader of the right-wing Falangist Party and father of President Amin Gemayel, said, according to his party's radio station: "The situation is no longer bearable. The people are no longer able to endure. Let the war take place and let the more powerful win."

The influential politician, whose younger son Bashir was assassinated last September while president-elect, generally chooses his words carefully and his reference to war was seen as significant.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday addresses army officers during a visit he made to attend a military exercise (Petra photo)

King attends military manoeuvres, inspects new battletank

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Wednesday watched a military exercise involving the Third Royal Armoured Division.

During the exercise, the Khaled Ibn Al Walid tank, a modified version of a modern tank refined in Jordan, made its first appearance in manoeuvres.

The divisional commander made a speech at the outset of the exercise in which he briefed the audience on the divisions training programme and the duties and responsibilities of his troops.

The King later visited the training field and met the officers and troops taking part in the exercise. In a brief speech King Hussein praised the troops' high standard of training and their skilful handling of modern technological equipment.

The exercise was attended by the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief, Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, and senior army officers.

Later, King Hussein visited a formation of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division and was briefed by its commanders on its training programme.

Gunmen attack Palestinian workers

TEL AVIV (R) — Unidentified gunmen opened fire on a truckload of Palestinian workers in south Israel Wednesday and wounded five of them, police said.

The Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip were travelling to jobs within Israel when a car with two passengers drove up and sprayed the open truck with automatic weapon fire, police said.

Two of the Palestinians were seriously injured. A 50-year-old woman suffered a head wound and a 10-year-old boy was shot in the eye, Israeli Radio reported.

It was the second time in two weeks that attackers have fired on unarmed Palestinians.

On July 26, gunmen barged into Hebron Islamic College in the Israeli-held West Bank, killing three students and injuring 33 others. No one has been arrested for the attack.

The driver, from the village of Taybe, and his wife and son were among those injured, police said.

Birzeit president condemns Israeli punishments

By Edward Walsh

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The head of an Arab university in the Israeli-occupied West Bank has condemned as excessively harsh prison sentences of up to two years that have been given to students at the school who took part in a stone-throwing protest there last month.

At a news conference, Gazi Barak, acting president of Birzeit University near Ramallah, also accused Israeli military authorities of breaking a pledge not to arrest students who left the campus peacefully at the end of the July 27 protest, in which tyres were burned and stones thrown at Israeli soldiers.

Within the past week, an Israeli military court in Ramallah has sentenced one Birzeit student to two years in prison and nine others to prison terms of 18 months each. Six students were acquitted because of insufficient identification, and 10 others are awaiting trial.

Mr. Barak, acting president of Birzeit University near Ramallah, has sentenced one Birzeit student to two years in prison and nine others to prison terms of 18 months each. Six students were acquitted because of insufficient identification, and 10 others are awaiting trial.

Speaking to a group of journalists, spokesman Kishieh Anayeh said Mr. Barak had listened to both Israeli and Iranian views on the Gulf war and urged both countries to reach an urgent settlement.

Japan urges peace
Mr. Abe told Mr. Aziz that Japan would like to see a quick ceasefire in the war, Mr. Abe's spokesman said.

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—The Washington Post

Shamir, Dany Chamoun hold talks

TEL AVIV (R) — Dany Chamoun, son of former Lebanese President Camille Chamoun and a long-time rival of the Falangists, met Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir Wednesday for talks on Israel's redeployment in Lebanon. The meeting appeared to indicate Israel is trying to shift some of its support from the Falangists to other Lebanese groups. Dany Chamoun commanded a rightist militia known as "the Tigers" until the late Falangist militia chief Bashir Gemayel amalgamated it with his own after heavy street fighting in 1980. He spent several years abroad but has been attempting a political comeback since returning to Lebanon last year. Mr. Chamoun said his visit to Israel, which includes a meeting with Defence Minister Moshe Arens Thursday, was "the best sign that I have returned to politics." He said the talks concentrated on Israel's planned evacuation of the Shouf mountain region of Lebanon.

Hassan: Political options for Mideast should be kept open

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was Wednesday quoted as saying Jordan felt political options for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict should be kept alive.

Although the United States will be busy in presidential elections, we feel the political option should be kept alive," Prince Hassan was quoted as saying.

He described President Reagan's September 1982 Middle East peace plan as "a ray of hope which could have led to the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories."

The plan envisages Palestinian home-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan.

Prince Hassan's remarks were published in the Arabic daily Al Dustour a day after the new U.S. Middle East envoy, Robert McFarlane, called here on his current Middle East tour and held talks with His Majesty King Hussein.

The interview was given to the English-language Jerusalem Star which does not appear until Thursday (today). But the Star's sister Arabic newspaper published it Wednesday.

Prince Hassan was also quoted as saying Jordan's main concern was to recover the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, occupied by Israel since 1967.

Our priority is to get back the land... and that is why we opened a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the basis of the American plan," he said.

"But the talks collapsed because of Syrian and Libyan interference in the PLO's movements and lack of progress in Lebanon," he added.

Jordan abandoned its dialogue with the PLO on a common approach to Middle East peace moves in April after it failed to reach an accord with the PLO.

Jordan had hoped that the dialogue with the PLO would result in a Palestinian-Jordanian formula that would help progress towards establishing peace in the security and justice for all peoples in the region. Prince Hassan said.

The important thing now is to stress the identity of the Palestinians and Lebanese, especially those who live under Israeli occupation, because the Zionists have repeatedly declared their intention of having total control of the territory, and this could become an established fact by 1985, Prince Hassan said.

On Tuesday, the Defence Ministry announced the departure of French instructors for Chad and informed sources said there would only be 180. But on Wednesday, the sources, who declined to be identified, said at least 400 were going.

Until Tuesday night's announcement, French cabinet ministers had said repeatedly in public that French troops would not be sent to the former colony.

On Wednesday, Defence Minister Charles Hernu said in a statement: "It is not France who has started to internationalise the conflict. It is the Libyans who have done that."

Earlier Wednesday, the Chad embassy in Paris said the Libyan and rebel forces, had started a major assault on Faya-Largeau, 800 kilometres northwest of the Chadian capital of N'djamena. The town was taken by the rebels in June but was recaptured by government forces 10 days ago.

Libya has denied that its troops were involved in the Chad civil war or that its aircraft have been carrying out raids.

But the government of President Hissene Habre said it shot down a Libyan Sukhoi SU-22 fighter bomber last Friday and produced the pilot at a news conference on Monday.

In what French political commentators said was a direct warning to Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, Defence Minister Hernu added Wednesday: "What Libya does, we will also do, except bombing civilians, which France would never countenance."

France has so far resisted requests from Mr. Habre that France commit four Jaguar strike aircraft, at present based in Libreville, Gabon, to the support of government forces in northern Chad.

But France has been under increasing pressure from the United States to play a stronger role in supporting Mr. Habre.

French commentators said however that President Francois Mitterrand's Socialist administration was extremely reluctant to be seen as the gendarme of Africa.

Israeli soldier dies in artillery crossfire
TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli soldier was killed and five were wounded Wednesday in artillery bombardments between Lebanese militiamen, a military spokesman said. Shells fired by Christian and Druze forces fell on Israeli positions near Beirut's airport, he said.

U.S. role in coup
Senior Western diplomats in Guatemala City said the United States had prior knowledge of the coup, which they said was initially to have taken place last Friday.

The U.S. embassy confirmed that deputy U.S. Military Attache William Mercado was at the presidential palace during the coup.

U.S. officials said Mr. Mercado, pictured on local television wearing a white suit and carrying a walkie-talkie, was carrying out his duty of keeping the embassy informed of military developments.

West Germany is due to take 204 Pershing-2 and cruise missiles from this December if the Geneva talks fail. Italy, Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium are expected to take only cruise missiles.

Anti-nuclear groups plan a campaign of protests and blockades against U.S. military bases this autumn. They seek a total ban on the new missiles. The "dual key" question, hotly argued in Rome and London, has not entered the debate here.

Mr. Strauss said he firmly backed the missile deployment plan as a response to Soviet deployment of SS-20 rockets and added that he was pessimistic about prospects for the stalled Geneva talks.

"I believe the Soviets have already come to terms with deployment," he said.

Guatemalan leader assails Sandinists

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — Guatemala's new military ruler, Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, said Tuesday night that the left-wing Sandinist government in Nicaragua threatened the whole American continent.

The right-wing paratroop officer, speaking at a press conference a day after he ousted army predecessor Efraim Rios Montt in a military coup, also described President Reagan's much criticised policies on Central America as "most apt."

Mr. Mejia Victores accused Nicaragua of equipping and training the left-wing guerrillas fighting in Central American states.

"Sandinism puts the whole of America in grave danger," he said.

He earlier held his first cabinet meeting, met senior Roman Catholic churchmen and had talks with U.S. Ambassador Frederick Chapin.

The U.S. envoy told reporters: "We discussed his programme of government as set forth in his remarks yesterday and his desire for close talks with representatives of the U.S. government."

Mr. Mejia Victores Tuesday fulfilled the pledge made on taking power by lifting emergency restrictions on the press and the right of assembly. He also said he would abolish secret military tribunals set up to try guerrillas.

He denied local news reports that a group of young officers were resisting his takeover and also said the Roman Catholic church had no involvement in his coup which was a purely military operation.

Mr. Rios Montt, an Evangelical Protestant, was overthrown after

coming under widespread attack for promoting young officers into positions of power and persecuting the Catholic church, to which the overwhelming majority of Guatemalans belong.

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Asked in an interview published

in the Hamburg magazine Stern published Wednesday if he favoured a Bonn veto, he replied: "I would prefer a practicable 'dual key' system."

He cited proposals that "in a crisis, the U.S. president, who controls the weapons, should be attended by a representative of every affected nation. Without their agreement the missiles could not be fired."

When he was defence minister in the 1950s, Mr. Strauss sought to arm West German forces with short-range nuclear rockets, but this was rejected after a bitter national debate.

West German leaders have also refused any direct control over foreign nuclear weapons and it has been assumed that Bonn would leave control over the rockets entirely in U.S. hands.

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MIDDLE EAST

Turkey's jailed politicians strongly condemn junta

ANKARA (R) — An unprecedented statement denouncing Turkey's military regime apparently smuggled to London by 16 detained political leaders has stirred fierce interest here.

The statement, which appeared in Tuesday's London Times newspaper, denounced forthcoming general elections as a fraud and criticised Western countries for applauding President Kenan Evren, leader of the 1980 coup, "until their hands are red."

The Times said it came from 16 former politicians including former Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel, who was detained out of a military base in western Turkey where they have been detained since June 2.

Informed sources here said the statement appeared genuine. It so, it was the first joint move by members of parties previously bitterly opposed to each other, and one of the toughest ever cri-

ticisms within Turkey of military rule.

Military authorities slapped an immediate news ban on the statement but it quickly became the hottest topic among political and press circles in Ankara and Istanbul.

Turkish newspapers are frequently ordered not to publish issues deemed sensitive by the military authorities.

The local correspondent for an American news agency said he had also been ordered not to write about the statement.

But news about it spread fast after it was mentioned on the Turkish language service of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Tuesday.

The statement said Turkey was involved in a "war between militarism and democracy," and it urged the United States and European nations currently supporting Gen. Evren's government to stay neutral in the conflict.

It denounced general elections set for Nov. 6, saying they would neither be free nor honest. "The votes will be divided among the people chosen by the generals," it said.

Fifteen new political parties are at present campaigning for the elections, but only three have so far qualified to take part in the poll as the ruling generals have vetoed hundreds of prospective party founding members.

They will also exercise a veto over all parliamentary candidates. Political observers said the statement was most notable for the fact that it came from politicians who previous to the coup were bitter rivals who refused to cooperate with each other.

Exiles back hunger strikes in Turkey

BONN (R) — A group of exiled Turkish writers and intellectuals said Wednesday that 1,200 political prisoners were on hunger strike at a military prison in Turkey's Anatolian city of Erzurum.

Author Dursun Akcam, spokesman for the group, told a news conference in Bonn that 2,500 other political prisoners, who had been fasting in Istanbul since July 7, had ended their hunger strike after being tortured and denied medical help.

The Erzurum hunger strike began last week and was aimed at getting better conditions, including the right to visit from lawyers and relatives and an end to solitary confinement, Mr. Akcam said.

There were unconfirmed reports that at least one prisoner had died on hunger strike in Istanbul and that others were in a coma, he added.

U.S.-Israeli lobby has compiled 'political hit list'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Former Senator James Abourezk has accused the Israeli lobby of compiling a "political hit list" designed to discredit and intimidate prominent Americans who support the Arabs or oppose Israeli policies.

Mr. Abourezk, who is of Lebanese origin, made the charge on a radio programme here on Monday night. He was referring to a new book, "The Campaign to Discredit Israel," published by the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the registered Zionist lobbying group.

Mr. Abourezk and a number of other well-known Americans are profiled in the book and described as enemies of Israel. Other listed include former Undersecretary of State George Ball, former Kennedy administration official Fred Dutton, former ambassador to Syria Takou Scelye and the ex-ambassador to Saudi Arabia John West.

Interviewed about the book on the local NBC radio station Mr. Abourezk said "you can joke about it all you want — and I've joked about it plenty — but the fact is that it amounts to nothing more than a political hit list."

He went on to describe the list of 39 Americans as "an invitation for somebody who's kooky enough, who believes in that cause to come after the people who are listed."

"I'm reminded of what the Nazis did to the Jews in the 1930s," he said. "If you were a Jew, you had to wear a yellow armband and a Star of David to identify yourself. That may be the next step here. Who knows?"

Abourezk said that rather than being labelled as pro-Arab or anti-Israeli, he would instead prefer to be known as a "strong supporter of a fair foreign policy in the Middle East and in other parts of the world."



SALADIN CITADEL RESTORED: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Tuesday inaugurated the 12th Century Saladin Citadel after its restoration. In front, left to right, are: Prime Minister Fuad Mubiedin, Minister of Culture Abdel Hamid, President Mubarak and his wife Susanna. The Mohammed Ali Mosque, part of the citadel, is seen in the background. (A.P. wirephoto)

Lebanese army may surprise private militias

By Thomas L. Friedman

BEIRUT — For the past year the Lebanese army has been quietly building its strength almost unbeknownst to the Lebanese people. Training in empty lots and sandpits, carrying out live fire exercises in secluded mountain valleys and unobtrusively recruiting teenagers from the country's former militias, the army has managed to double its effective manpower in 12 months and now tops 33,000 men.

"I don't think many Lebanese realise just how big their army has become," remarked Col. Arthur T. Fintel, the American officer helping to supervise the modernisation programme. "They have been so successful in recruiting that they are bringing in men faster than we can train and equip them."

Size of course is hardly the only criterion by which to judge an army — although in a small and fractured nation like Lebanon sheer numbers can go a long way. The army's more elusive qualities of leadership, esprit de corps and commitment to stand and die, not for the family, village or religious group but for the nation as a whole, remain to be tested.

That test, however, could be less than 30 days away. By then, the Israeli army is expected to have begun withdrawing from roughly 32 square kilometres in the Shouf Mountains southeast of Beirut and the Lebanese army will have to replace it as peacekeepers and referees between feuding Lebanese Druze and Maronite Christian villagers.

If the army can successfully pacify the Shouf, there just may be

S. Yemen discusses exercises

ADEN (R) — South Yemen's cabinet Tuesday night discussed what it called the threat posed by military manoeuvres to be staged from Wednesday by the United States and four Arab states.

Official Aden news agency said the meeting, chaired by President Ali Nasser Mohammad, discussed measures necessary to protect the country and its security against any threat posed by the manoeuvres but it did not elaborate.

The agency said the cabinet also expressed its confidence that its people were able to defend their independence and sovereignty.

Tunisia ready to accept child POWs from Iraq

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — Tunisia is ready to become the first country to receive Iranian child soldiers captured by Iraq in the Gulf War, human rights groups said Wednesday.

Two Swiss-based humanitarian organisations, Sentinelles and Terre des Hommes, are concerned about some 240 Iranian POWs aged between 12 and 18 in Iraqi camps and are campaigning for their release, preferably Muslim, to take care of them.

The groups released the text of a message from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba Wednesday in which he said Tunisia was ready to receive and care for 12 prisoners.

In a separate development, the London-based anti-slavery society was to appeal to the United Nations later Wednesday to put pressure on the Iranian government to stop recruiting child "martyrs" and sending them to war against Iraq.

Iraqi officials have claimed that for every boy soldier captured, 99 others are killed in the war that has lasted nearly three years.

A spokesman for the society, the world's oldest human rights group, said it was also calling on the U.N. to help arrange for child soldiers captured by Iraq to be transferred to other nations for the duration of hostilities.

UNIFIL soldier admits killing 3 colleagues

DUBLIN (R) — An Irish soldier told police he shot three colleagues after a heated row while on United Nations peace-keeping duties in the Lebanon, according to a statement read out Tuesday at a court martial trying him for triple murder.

The statement was said to have been made to an Irish police officer flown to Lebanon three months after the incident last October.

Pvt. Michael McAleavy, 22, from Belfast, has pleaded not guilty to the charges at the hearing in the Irish Republic.

Pvt. McAleavy was quoted as saying a row developed after one of the dead men, Corp. Gregory Morrow, intervened in a confrontation between himself and the driver of an Israeli jeep, which was eventually allowed through the checkpoint.

The statement quoted Pvt.

McAleavy as saying he walked away, turned around, cocked his automatic rifle and opened up on his colleagues, then moved in closer to "mop up".

When he realised what he had done he called for help, the statement said.

What happened that night is like a dream," the statement quoted Pvt. McAleavy as saying. "I know it happened, but cannot imagine it. Things started building up on me that night."

2 Thai envoys start Mideast visit

BANGKOK (R) — Two Thai cabinet ministers left Wednesday for visits to Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to study conditions for Thais working there.

Deputy Foreign Minister Prapassad Limpanandhu said he and Deputy Interior Minister Surat Osathanakroh would spend a week touring the three countries where most of the 200,000 Thai workers in the Middle East are employed.

Money remitted by Thais working in the Middle East is one of Thailand's major sources of foreign exchange. Migrant workers send the equivalent of more than 10 billion baht (\$430 million) back to Thailand every year.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:30 Koran
17:10 Famous People
17:45 Children's Programme
18:20 Walt Disney
19:10 Programmes Review
19:20 Local Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
21:00 Arabic Series
22:00 Arabic Play Cont.
23:10 Arabic Play Cont.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Special Programme via Satellite on King's accession to the Throne
22:00 News in English
22:15 Movie of the Week: "Assassination Bureau"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 95.60 KHz. SW

07:10 Morning Show
08:00 News Summary
08:30 Pop Session
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Pop Session
11:00 News Summary
11:30 Pop Session
12:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Young Sound
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 Instrumentals, Did Favorites
17:00 Special Feature, Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Profile
19:00 News Summary
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
22:00 News Summary
23:00 News Summary
24:00 News Headlines, Sign Off

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newswatch 06:30 Chemical Record

WHAT'S GOING ON

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 44371
British Council 36147
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Husseini Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Armenian Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843575

SERVICE CLUBS

Lebanon Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphi Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 3:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 81261.
Jabal Hussein, 661757.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, tel. 24590.
St. Raphael's Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, 37444.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 41559.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.
St. Raphael's Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249.

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum. Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old, no museum from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum. Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qa'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. 19:00 - 20:00. The Golden Obelisk. 18:45. The World Today 19:00. World News 19:09. Meridian 19:40. The Week in Wales 19:40. The World Today 20:00. News about Britain 20:15. Radio Newswatch 20:30. A Musical Offering 21:00. Outlook: News Summary 21:30. Stock Market Report 21:45. World News 22:00. The World Today 22:00. News 22:09. 24 Hours News Summary 22:30. A Joy Good Show 23:15. Ulster Newsletter 23:20. The World Today 23:30. Business Matters 23:40. World News 23:49. The World Today 23:55. The Week in Wales 23:55. Financial News 23:59. Reflections 00:05. Sports Round-up 01:00. World News: Commentary 01:15. Merchant Navy Programme 01:30. Meridian.

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260, 5965, 7200, 15205, 17175 KHz

06:00 The Breakfast Show: News, Information, Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, News Summary at 30 minutes past the hour, 17:00 News 17:10 Magazine Show 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 Now Music USA 19:00 News 19:10 Magazine Show 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 21:30 Dateline/Forum 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 VOA World Report

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

PRAYER TIMES

05:26 Fair
06:37 (Sunrise) Shari
11:41 Dhuhur
12:24 'Asr
12:54 Maghrib
1:54 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:55 Cairo (EA)
08:05 Tripoli (LN)
08:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:05 Agaba (RJ)
09:15 Damascus (RJ)
09:20 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:40 Doha (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
10:35 Doha, Riyadh (SV)
10:45 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (SV)
11:00 Istanbul (TA)
12:25 Cairo (EA)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
12:45 Baghdad (RJ)
13:25 Cairo (MS)
14:00 Kuwait (KAC)
15:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:30 Baghdad (IA)
15:45 London (RJ)
16:15 Cairo (RJ)
16:15 Larnaka (RJ)
16:15 Athens (RJ)
17:05 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:15 Amsterdam, Beirut (KLM)
18:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
20:15 Beirut (MEA)
21:45 Baghdad (IA)
22:05 Cairo (EA)
06:30 Cairo (RJ)
06:45 Cairo (RJ)
08:45 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:15 Damascus (RJ)
06:25 Agaba (RJ)
07:25 Beirut (MEA)
09:05 Larnaka, Tripoli (LN)
09:25 Damascus, Athens, Geneva, Zurich (SR)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:20 Athens (GF)
11:30 Rome (RJ)
11:30 Cairo (RJ)
11:45 Riyadh, Dhahran (SR)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:15 Cairo (RJ)
12:15 Larnaka (RJ)
12:15 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (TA)

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 75111
First aid, first police 199
Blood bank 75121
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 22090-3
Police rescue 193, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters 39171
Traffic police 56390-1
Electric Power Co. 36381-2
Municipal water service 71125-5
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre 81381-32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Der Al-Shifa, J. Hamein 667158
Malha, J. Amman 36140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171-4
Shmeisani Hospital 845545
Der Al-Shifa, J. Hamein 667158
Al-Munther Hospital 667227-9
The Islamic, Abdali 665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Islamic, Al-Mubarak 77101-3
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh 75111
Army, Marka 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hassan Kamal 56711

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Fair weather is expected with north-westerly moderate winds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate with calm seas.

Low high temperature in deg.C

Amman 17/30
Agaba 24/37
Desert 18/26
Jordan Valley 23/37

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 34, Agaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Agaba 53 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Dr. Anwar Musa Al Haj 71020
Dr. Salim pharmacy 36730
Al Nidil pharmacy 42737
Omar pharmacy 42737
Al Safa pharmacy 74054
Al A'adin pharmacy (72861)
Pharmacy taxi 41540
Grand Palace taxi 667079
Medical City taxi 81381-3
Taksi taxi 22051
Taksi taxi 25021

HOSPITALS

Dr. Dinar Ousawi 3515
Palestine pharmacy 2085
ZARQA:
Dr. Barakat Shajrawi 83038
Al Shaker pharmacy (-)

GENERAL

Jordan Television 73111
Radio Jordan 74111
Ministry of Tourism 42311
Hotel complaints 666412
Prior complaints 661776
Telephone:
Information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 18
Cable or telegram 17
Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Uppercase price in lbs per kg.
Apple (small) 250/300
Apple (local) 200/150
Apricots 500/400
Banana (Mukammal) 270/220
Banana (small) 230/200
Beans 200/170
Cabbage 160/120
Carrot 180/150
Cauliflower (white) 250/200
Cherries 750/700
Corn 300/250
Cucumber (large) 200/150
Cucumber (small) 300/250
Eggplant (large) 70/50
Eggplant (small) 120/80
Figs 700/500
Figs (small) 130/100
Garlic 250/200

Grapes 250/200
Lemon 200/150
Lemon (yellow) 300/250
Marrow (large) 120/100
Marrow (small) 200/150
Mellow 70/50
Melon (super) 80/50
Melon (small) 100/70
Onion (dry) 130/100
Okra 280/240
Oranges 300/250
Peaches 450/400
Pears 520/450
Pepper (Sweet) 120/90
Pepper (Hot Green) 170/140
Plum (red) 250/200
Potatoes 150/120
Radish 130/100
Tomato 80/50
Watermelon 130/100

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

10:00 Koran
10:30 Children's Programme
10:40 Popeye
10:50 Programme on Sports & Space
11:10 Religious Programme
12:05 Target... The Impossible
13:20 Local Play
14:30 Soccer
15:10 Harper Valley
16:35 Hawaii Five-0
18:10 Chis Holmes
19:30 Religious Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 Local Variety Programme

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme (feature film)
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Tales of the Unexpected
21:10 King's Royal
22:00 News in English
22:15 Falcon Crest

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 95.60 KHz. SW

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 News Summary
08:30 Pop Session
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Pop Session
11:00 News Summary
12:00 News Summary

Friday Special

12:00 Friday Special
14:00 News Summary
14:10 Jordan Weekly
14:30 Catch the Words
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Instrumentals, Did Favorites
17:00 30-Minute Theatre
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Top Twenty
19:00 News Desk
19:30 First Sign
20:00 In Concert
20:30 Doctor at Large
21:00 Classical Notes
22:00 News Summary
22:30 Richard Wagner
23:00 Over a Cup of Tea
23:30 News Summary
23:10 Jazz Hour
24:00 News Headlines, Sign Off

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newswatch 06:30 Country Style
06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections
07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours News
07:30 World News 07:39 24 Hours News
08:00 World News 08:09 24 Hours News
08:30 World News 08:39 24 Hours News
09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hours News
09:30 World News 09:39 24 Hours News
10:00 World News 10:09 24 Hours News
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22:30 World News 22:39 24 Hours News
23:00 World News 23:09 24 Hours News
23:30 World News 23:39 24 Hours News
24:00 World News 24:09 24 Hours News

13:25 Ulster Newsletter 13:30 Meridian

14:00 Radio Newswatch 14:15 Jazz for the Asking 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours News
15:30 World News 15:39 24 Hours News
16:00 World News 16:09 24 Hours News
16:30 World News 16:39 24 Hours News
17:00 World News 17:09 24 Hours News
17:30 World News 17:39 24 Hours News
18:00 World News 18:09 24 Hours News
18:30 World News 18:39 24 Hours News
19:00 World News 19:09 24 Hours News
19:30 World News 19:39 24 Hours News
20:00 World News 20:09 24 Hours News
20:3

Hussein marks 31 years on throne

Jordan celebrates King's accession

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanians Thursday commemorate the 31st anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne.

During the past 31 years of his rule, the country has seen major developments in every field. The successive development plans and the current five-year plan have given Jordan a strong industrial base, a more productive agricultural sector and a highly developed banking and financial sector.

There have also been big strides made in education, social services, and a major development in the position and strength of the armed forces.

On the Arab level, Jordan came to the aid of both Iraq and Syria in the Gulf War and the 1973 war respectively. Jordan has also been committed to the Palestinian cause and has shouldered its responsibilities towards the Palestinian people ever since the 1948 occupation of Palestine.

From the moment he succeeded his father the late King Talal, King Hussein has been following in the footsteps of the teachings of King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, founder of the Kingdom and son of Al Hussein Ibn Ali, leader of the Great Arab Revolt.

On the eve of the anniversary, the Royal Court received cables of good wishes to the King from Prime Minister Mudar Badran, senior government officials, key public figures, representatives of trade unions and town and village councils and tribal heads.

In their cables, they wished the King further success in the leadership of his country. To mark the anniversary, the Ministry of Communications has issued a commemorative stamp in denominations of 10, 25, 40, 50 and 100 fils which will be in circulation at all post offices Thursday.

All government departments and public institutions will be closed Thursday.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday inaugurates a children's park in the 'Ain Al Jadour area during her visit to Salt (Petra photo).



Her Majesty Queen Noor visits Salt Cultural Centre, which is still under construction (Petra photo).

Hassan views Ma'an development projects

MA'AN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday paid a visit to the Ma'an Governorate and inspected development projects underway in Ma'an and nearby areas.

Prince Hassan started the tour with a visit to the agricultural station at Shobak followed by a visit to the Shobak Community College where he was briefed on its development and training programmes.

During a stop at the Shobak Municipality headquarters, Prince Hassan was briefed on the town's projects and listened to requests for an improvement in the standard of public services and tourist facilities.

The next stop on the tour was Wadi Mousa where Prince Hassan inspected development projects and watched research experiments aimed at improving the quality of trees grown in the area.

In Ma'an, Prince Hassan opened the new civil defence centre and toured a housing estate and a comprehensive school still under construction.

This was followed by a visit to a glass factory and the civic centre where the mayor outlined the city's new development projects.

Prince Hassan also visited a gymnasium and an electricity transformer station which feeds Ma'an and neighbouring villages with electric power. At a meeting later in the day Prince Hassan was briefed on the latest set of studies for the region's urban development programme.

Prince Hassan was accompanied on his tour by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Momeni, directors of housing and tourism, the governor of Amman and the Ministry of Agriculture Under-Secretary Salem Al Lawzi.

Management skills must be improved, says Anani

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's public and private sectors suffer from a lack of trained and experienced managers, thus a proper examination of the problem should be made to find a rapid and effective solution, Minister of Labour Jawad Al Anani said here Wednesday.

The minister was speaking at a meeting held to hear a report on management shortages in Jordan and problems impeding administrative development.

The report was submitted by a specialist from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Dr. Talat Abdul Malek.

The minister called for the establishment of institutions which would be able to help tackle management training and development problems.

The meeting was attended by Civil Service Commission Director-General Ali Khreia, Mohammad Mal Allah director of the Institute of Public Administration, representatives from the National Planning Council, and the Ministry of Labour.

'Friends of Police' group honoured at ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — A new 'Friends of the Police' group was honoured Wednesday at a ceremony attended by the Public Security Director Lt.-Gen. Mohammad Idris.

During the ceremony, a performance of gymnastics was put on and police bands entertained the audience.

Lt.-Gen. Idris introduced the occasion by making a speech in which he stressed the importance of cooperation between the police and the public so as to combat crime, and help the police force carry out its duty.

Ministerial talks slated for December

AMMAN (Petra) — The next meeting of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) will be held in Amman in the first week of December, according to a CAEU spokesman. He said that the meeting will be attended by Arab ministers of trade, economy and finance.

The meeting, he said, will be preceded by a meeting in November of ordinary representatives from its Arab member countries in the Amman-based CAEU headquarters.

Yarmouk to attend Berlin scientific conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Yarmouk University will participate in a seminar for scientists in developing countries scheduled to be held in Berlin on Aug. 15.

Several scientists from third world countries will take part in the seminar, according to Dr. Midhat Ismail of Yarmouk University. He added that the seminar will focus on scientific topics and ways of improving research in developing countries.

Ministries to cooperate over green campaign to beautify rural regions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture and Social Development held talks here Wednesday on ways of coordinating their actions in increasing the amount of greenery in the villages and rural regions of Jordan.

The project is included in a programme sponsored by the Ministry of Social Development, but the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture are needed because it will supply the trees and saplings to be planted to the villagers.

At the meeting, which was co-chaired by Agriculture Minister Marwan Dudin and Minister of Social Development In'am al Mufti, it was decided that the Agriculture Ministry should make available 100,000 forest saplings, 20,000 fruit trees and 5,000 ornamental trees to improve the look of the country-side.

The project was first started last year in the village of Umm Al Basatin at a ceremony attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor. However, the two ministries are now preparing a new list of villages, in which each family will be allocated responsibility for two trees.

The meeting also discussed coordination between the two ministries in providing agricultural engineers to work at the Princess Rahmah Community Development Centre at Allan, west of here, and agricultural advisors to work at the Sama Al Sarhan, Dhiban, and Krafmeh development centres which are to be run by the Ministry of Social Development.

Attending the meeting were the undersecretaries of both ministries and other senior aides.

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Queen Noor visits Salt community enterprises

SALT (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday visited Salt and inspected a number of development projects undertaken by the Salt Municipality and the Salt Development Corporation (SDC).

Accompanied by Balqa Governor Mohammad Al Khatib, Mayor Abdul Razzaq Nsour and other local officials, the Queen first of all called at the Salt Cultural Centre which is still under construction, and was briefed by the mayor on the progress made so far.

The centre's construction is being financed by the Friends of Salt Society in Kuwait and is expected to cost JD 1 million. It is one of several other projects which the SDC is carrying out in the city in cooperation with the Kuwait-based society and local inhabitants.

The centre, to be built in the traditional Islamic style will, have a car park, garden, folk museum, offices, mosque and a public library. The whole project will be built on approximately 5,000 square metres of land.

The Queen later stopped at the Salt Commercial Centre which was established on a four dunum plot and cost JD 600,000 to construct. The centre includes stores and offices and has an annual rental earning of JD 50,000.

Afterwards the Queen inspected work on a car park complex located near the southern entrance to the city. The project is designed to meet the city's needs for the coming ten years. The estimated JD 100,000 project is expected to be completed in the coming two months.

Following that, Queen Noor

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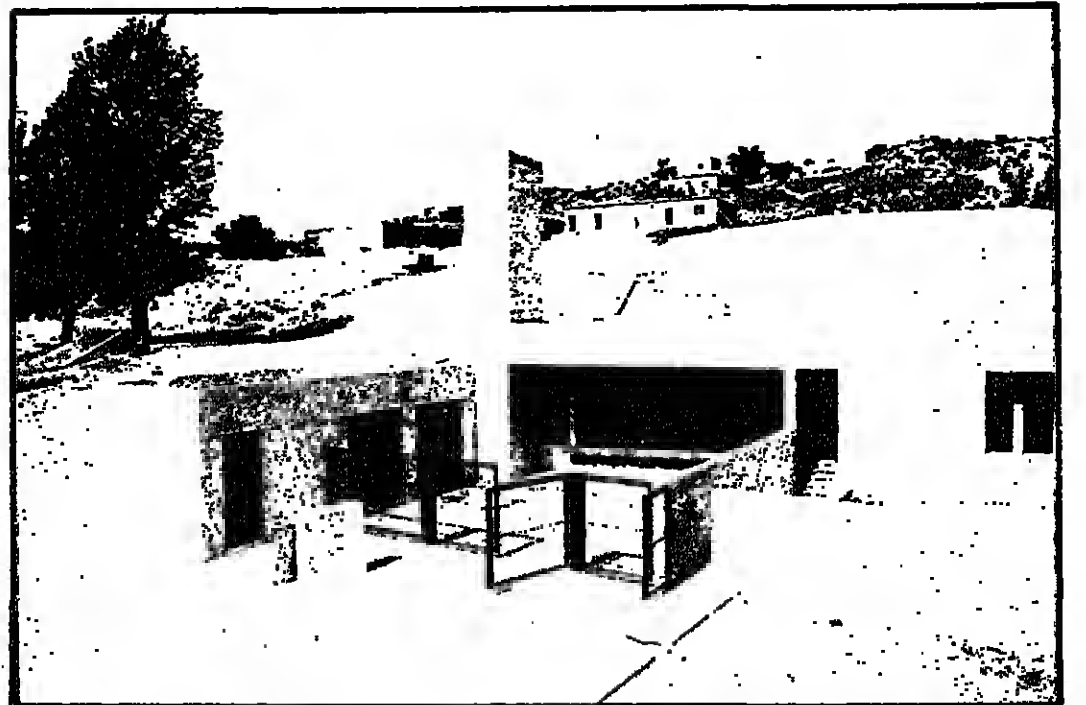
toured the site of a new central market place being built on 3,500 square metres of land at the cost of JD 35,000. The market is expected to have an annual rental earning of JD 35,000.

The Queen later inaugurated a children's garden in Salt set up on an eight-dunum plot of land. The garden includes a library, a theatre and conference hall, a swimming pool, a children's playground, and a multi-purpose hall.

The Queen was shown round the garden's different sections and donated a collection of books and encyclopaedia to the library. The JD 70,000 garden has been financed by a philanthropist Mr. Abdul Rahman Abu Hassan.

During the tour, Queen Noor paid tribute to the local inhabitants' efforts to build up their city and improve its services.

Queen Noor was accompanied on the visit by Mrs. Laila Sharaf, member of the National Consultative Council.



New resthouse opened at Jerash

By Salameh Nehmat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As part of the preparations for the second Jerash Festival scheduled to take place between Aug. 12 and 20, a JD 450,000 resthouse has been built and is already open to visitors.

The resthouse, with a capacity of 250 people, is appropriately located next to the Jerash Visitor's Centre on the main road just beside the Roman ruins. It is managed by the Hotel and Resthouses Association.

At the festival site 25 kiosks have also been built to serve sandwiches and refreshments at reasonable prices to visitors.

Coordination is set between the festival's committee and the Ministry of Supply to provide food and beverages and to control prices charged by private vendors. Those kiosks will be providing services 12 hours a day during the 8-day festival.


Transport provisions

Also in preparation for the Jer-

ash Festival, an agreement has been reached with the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) to provide transportation for the festival visitors from a number of points in Jordan to the festival site in Jerash.

Fifty PTC buses will transport festival visitors from 1 p.m. till midnight during the eight-day festival.

About 200,000 people are expected to attend the big event which has taken much preparation and planning, by various Jordanian governmental officials and private volunteers.



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A new offer for peace

IN HIS interview with Austrian Television on Monday, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat noted correctly that United States policy in the Middle East was threatening to split the region through a dangerous Balkanization process. And he was right to plan a call for a United Nations Security Council debate on the Arab-Israeli conflict, since all the elements of the Middle East crisis are indeed there.

Mr. Arafat's latest call for peace negotiations at the U.N. is not different from many appeals he made in the past on the same issue. Once again he puts himself and his people squarely on the side of a negotiated settlement that would ensure peace and stability in the region, restore rights to the Palestinians and address the question of security for all states in the Middle East, including Israel.

The attitude that the PLO chairman is articulating, especially at this crucial time beyond which there can be little hope of progress, is still shared by the overwhelming majority of Palestinians and Arabs, and has been officially sanctioned by the highest institutions in the Arab World.

Mr. Arafat's renewed offer should be seized by Israel and its American paymasters and protectors. It should not be lost because of the short-term objectives of the U.S. government or the militaristic impulses of the Begin establishment.

Despite their problems and troubles, the Arabs, particularly the Palestinian people, are offering the hand of peace and coexistence with the Israelis. It would indeed be tragic and shameful if both America and Israel ignored our calls for peace and insisted on living only in their world of military dreams and adventurism.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Lebanon, test of U.S. credibility

U.S. MIDDLE East envoy Robert McFarlane Tuesday had a meeting with His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials on his current mission in the region to secure a withdrawal of forces from Lebanon. During the meeting, King Hussein reiterated Jordan's total support for the unity and territorial sovereignty of Lebanon -- which has always been a firm Jordanian policy toward that country. However, any U.S. move to bring about peace and stability in Lebanon remains strongly linked to American credibility which if shaken, as has been the case over the occupied Arab territory, will give McFarlane only a slim chance of success in his mission. The question of Lebanon is therefore the touchstone of American credibility, and this ought to prompt McFarlane to persuade Israel to give up its intransigence over and evil intentions in Lebanon.

It is worth referring to the recent statements by French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson in which he warned of the dangers of partitioning Lebanon, something which Israel has been aiming at. We can only judge McFarlane by the actual results of the new American effort and not by the statements of a government which maintains close links with Israel.

Al Dustour: Breaking Israel's intransigence

U.S. MIDDLE East policies have for so long been the prisoners of Zionist control. The Lebanese crisis has exposed to the world the instability of American policy towards the region in general and Lebanon in particular. More recently, the United States has adopted an indifferent attitude towards Israel's practices in the occupied territories and in Lebanon. It has also resorted to its veto to block any resolutions condemning the Zionist state for its actions in Hebron. The U.S. total support and material assistance for Israel have contributed to further Israeli acts of oppression inside the occupied lands and have encouraged Israel to launch attacks on its neighbours and to adopt its present intransigent approach.

Israeli intransigence, if allowed to continue, is bound to abort every efforts by U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane to secure the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. This picture was made clear to the U.S. envoy by His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday. The King also reaffirmed Jordan's firm support for the unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon, and its readiness to extend material and moral support towards helping Lebanon achieve that goal. The United States shoulders a major responsibility for Israel's behaviour not just because of its close ties with Israel but also because of its status as a superpower responsible for maintaining world peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: A depressing scenario

ISRAEL'S PARTIAL withdrawal from the Lebanese Shouf Mountains and the town of Akay is dreaded by the local inhabitants as much as the presence of the Israeli army itself amongst them. The local people fear that the withdrawal will rekindle factional and sectarian fighting mainly among the Maronites and the Druze. The people believe that the Beirut government will be unable to fill the vacuum left after an Israeli withdrawal. In the Bekaa and to the north of Lebanon, inter-Palestinian and pro and anti Syrian factions continue to battle against each other. Thus Lebanon is about to slide back into a new civil war and no one is able to do anything to stop it.

For its part, Syria, which holds the keys to the solution, seems indifferent and unwilling to do anything to defuse the situation. It has forces in Lebanon and controls events in a manner that suits its own interests while keeping Israel at bay. Israel also seems in a comfortable position. As long as the Lebanese-Israeli agreement remains unworkable, the Israelis find no harm in reaching a secret compromise solution with Syria on a disengagement of troops. Therefore, both Syria and Israel seek to prolong their stay in Lebanon since this gives them the chance to avoid direct confrontation. What remains to be seen is whether the United States will allow this to continue and whether its envoy Robert McFarlane will be able to fulfil promises made to the Lebanese leaders by the American administration.

Is being a 'good' Greek American good to Greeks?

U.S. Senator Paul Eftymios Tsongas, Democrat of Massachusetts, was born in Lowell, Massachusetts of Greek immigrant parents. After serving three years as a peace corps volunteer and working as a lawyer in Lowell and Boston he was elected United States Representative from the fifth district of Massachusetts before becoming a senator in 1978. He is an influential member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and of the sub-committees for African Affairs, East Asia and Pacific Affairs and Western Hemisphere Affairs. Senator Tsongas was recently in Greece where he received an honorary doctorate from the American College of Athens. His views on regional affairs give an indication of prevailing attitudes among U.S. lawmakers.

During his stay in Athens, Senator Tsongas gave an interview to John Rigos for the Cyprus-based Middle East Times on problems facing Greece, Turkey and the countries of the Middle East. Following is the full text of the interview:

Q: Can the American government guarantee a balance of power between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean as the Greek government has asked before it signs the U.S. base agreement?

A: The fact is that under the U.S. constitution, to the extent that the guarantee involves military equipment, which in essence is what it means, the administration itself cannot guarantee because the congress has to appropriate the money. This year we have reinstituted the 7-10 ratio and this congress is committed to that.

Q: What do you see as a solution to this problem as far as the base agreement is concerned?

A: I am hopeful that it is in the interest of both countries to work out an agreement. Truly it is in the American interest to have Greece as a strong ally. It is also in the Greek interest. I think, to have the United States as a close friend.

The particulars of the base agreement are very important to both countries, but it seems to me it is less important what the details are than the environment in which it operates. It seems to me that both countries have to trust each other and work together, otherwise agreements don't mean a great deal.

Q: Do you see relations between the United States and Greece as having taken the wrong turn?

A: The relationship is not as strong as I would like to see it. A

lot of the trouble between the two countries goes back to Cyprus and what happened under the Greek junta. I was one of the Americans who were against the junta and I remember being in a lonely minority at that time. After the junta fell it was very hard to find Greeks who were for the junta, although they were there.

I think the United States government, even though it was not for the junta, should have been more outspoken at the time. The inability to move Turkey over the issue of Cyprus also hurt.

Thirdly, I think the emphasis placed by former secretary of state Dr. Henry Kissinger and those who were for him on Turkey's strategic importance was overstated. Yes, Turkey is important. But historically it is Greece that has been the U.S. ally. I voted for the embargo on aid to Turkey because there should be some way to move Turkey on the Cyprus issue. We tried, but it did not work.

Q: Did you said that agreements are not important without good relations between the agreeing parties. In the case of the Greek-American base agreement, do you see relations between the two countries improving so that this agreement could really be beneficial?

A: You have to get to a point where the two countries decide to improve them. I think if the leaders of both nations just decided to improve relations, it can be

done. Countries follow their leaders. I don't think it is too difficult, but first you need the will to do it.

Q: Since the congress and the senate seem to be for such an improvement, how do you see the administration making a move towards the end?

A: There is a very strong pro-Greek sentiment in both house and senate. Part of it stems from the relations that the members of congress have with the Greek community in the United States. Most members of congress like Greeks, it is not just that we happen to be allies. It is a personal attraction and I think that that is true in the administration as well. However, in many administrations you have looming the issue of the geopolitical importance of Turkey. You need to have two allies not just one.

Going back to the Cyprus invasion, we in the United States should have done more than we did, and I think we pay the price for not having done that.

I think the administration can start -- and it can be done quietly -- saying we must deal with each other on a more rational basis or more friendly basis. That can be done quietly and just see what happens. We have seen lately signs on the part of the Greek administration -- as now with the EEC presidency -- of not being so offensive to the West.

Is there any way such signs can be encouraged further by the United States? I think so. Already, the United States has been very careful in what it said. It has not made public statements. I think that the total movement towards each other is positive.

Q: If the United States could do something about the Cyprus settlement do you think it would be a good step?

A: Oh yes. I tried to pressure three administrations to move on that issue. It has become a permanent business of ours.

Q: Why the reluctance on the part of the Reagan administration to do something on that?

A: I think the reluctance on the part of three administrations goes back to the residue of the Kissinger views. There was hope that when the military government took over in Turkey it would be strong enough to conclude some agreement. It has not happened, and it has been a major disappointment.

Q: You don't see the administration at this point trying to do something about it?

A: No. Not this administration. But I don't expect this administration to be in power for more than a year-and-a-half.

Q: How do you see the Greek government working towards this solution?

A: I have no feelings on that. Whatever works out is OK, whatever brings people together. Look at what happened at Camp David. You brought two people together you never thought would communicate, and they were able to work out an agreement. I think it depends on the chemistry of the personalities. I have no instinctive reason to be for, or against, any involvement of Greece as long as it moves in the right direction.

Q: Since you mentioned Camp David, can we move to the Middle East? Do you see any signs of improvement there?

A: Obviously the signing of the agreement between Israel and Lebanon was important. The veto that Syria is exercising is very discouraging. I don't think we should allow Syria to exercise a veto over peace in the Middle East. That is the one place where you have the potential of superpower confrontation.

It was in Lebanon a year ago during the bombing, then I was in Israel, Jordan and Egypt in January. I had a chance to meet with the leadership and I thought in January it was really going to work out. King Hussein appeared to me to be ready to go in and negotiate, and I think he should have done it. You know, history gives you just so many opportunities. I don't think history treats cautious people very well. They may be survivors in their own time, but history looks back on them. It turns to be very harsh to those who take the easy way out. History remembers the people who are bold and do things that are necessary for the times.

Q: How do you see the rift between the PLO and Syria?

A: Inter-Arab squabbling has been going on for centuries and there is no reason to think it will not continue for centuries. Lebanon is such a divided country that making a strong central government work under the circumstances is very difficult. But you don't have a choice, you simply have to do it.

Q: Do you see a participation of the PLO in the peace process?

A: I think that the PLO should simply recognise Israel, deal with reality, no this nonsense that it does not exist and that they will drive it to the sea. It is rhetoric for rhetoric's sake. I have no patience for that kind of thing, no matter who does it. The PLO, if it had any common sense, would have recognised Israel a long time ago and after 1967 they would have had the West Bank.

Instead they have given in to the radicals of the various factions and now they will never get Jerusalem back and I don't think they should. It is now a cosmopolitan-metropolitan area and the chances are that whatever they work out it will be less than satisfactory.

Again, people take the easy way out on recognising the real politic. They would rather appear rhetorically ferocious, which sounds very good to their followers. But what good has it done to them? If they had used common sense back in the 1960s they would have had a solution by now.

Q: Telling the Palestinians that they haven't used common sense is not enough, especially in view of the emotionalism of the people in this part of the world. Is there any other way to help?

A: I understand emotionalism. My grandfather when he used to refer to the Turks was very emotional. What does that solve? It does not solve anything. One advantage of Western society is that it is based on reason. To the extent you walk away from reason you become the architect of your own demise. I think that is what has happened.

The United States has said to the PLO, "you recognise Israel and we will deal with you, we will recognise you." This was said by both former President Jimmy Carter and by President Ronald Reagan, as an offer. If they were rational, they would have taken it a long time ago. Having recognised Israel and having spoken to the president, it would have a great impact on the credibility of the PLO. They have chosen not to do that.

Q: Let me ask you an historical question. The Arabs have been very friendly to the United States, and Americans have been very effective in helping the Arab World develop its resources, find its oil, etc. Why, when it came to political decisions, did the United States

back Israel in the first wars between the Israelis and Arabs?

A: There have been a couple of things. One, a historic obligation going back to the holocaust -- the same way I am affected by what happened to close relations of

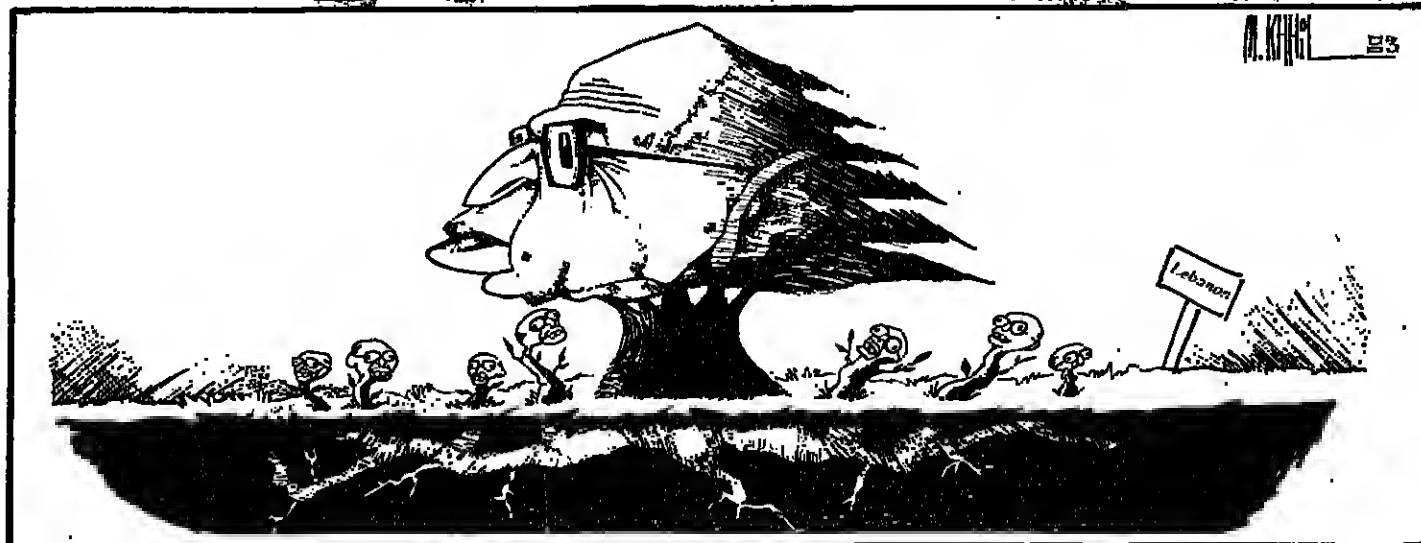


Paul Tsongas mine who were tortured by the Turks, or how the Armenians feel about the Turks. The second thing is that Israel exists, and so much rhetoric was said about driving Israel into the sea that we have an obligation to protect it. We appeared to be the only allies Israel had in a crisis and we appear to have followed it through.

Then there is a respect for Israel as a democracy. We are a democracy and you have all these non-democratic states all around. It does not mean that when Israel is at fault we should not say so. I did. During the bombing of Beirut I was very critical. But by that one should not make the assumption that the United States will ever walk away from Israel. I think that what President Carter did with former President Anwar Sadat was very important, and I think in the long run it served Israel very well.

Q: Do you feel that Israel is repressing?

A: I think so for the most part. Certainly there have been problems -- the bombing of Beirut, and second the settlements policy. But I think the agreement between Lebanon and Israel has done a lot to soften the disagreements. That's true not only between Israel and the administration but between Israel and the congress.



NATO missile deployment plans infuriate pacifist German masses

By Paul Taylor
 Reuter

BONN -- The debate over NATO plans to deploy U.S. medium-range missiles in West Germany later this year has focused public concern on nuclear weapons with an intensity unmatched since the late 1950s.

Then as now, thousands of worried citizens -- Christian pacifists, trade unionists and leftists -- took to the streets with banners warning that "nuclear death threatens us all".

Anti-nuclear campaigners frequently complain that their arguments against the missiles are ignored or misrepresented in reports about their protests.

The Bonn government also feels its case for deployment is insufficiently represented. It is planning a publicity bonanza this autumn aimed at wresting the initiative from opponents of the NATO strategy.

The following summary of the main arguments for and against deployments is based on conversations with West German officials and "peace movement" activists:

Against -- Nuclear weapons are inherently immoral, since their use would be genocide. Nuclear deterrence is meaningless since it amounts to a threat of mass suicide in which entire civilian populations are held as hostages.

For -- One cannot un-invent the bomb. Possession of nuclear weapons is moral because their purpose is to prevent war of any kind. Since the Soviet Union has conventional military superiority

in Europe, the West needs nuclear deterrence has to operate at every level. The medium-range missiles fill a gap in the West's nuclear armoury where the Soviet Union has superiority.

Against -- The NATO missiles are a dangerous escalation of the arms race. They represent a qualitatively new threat to the Soviet Union which it is bound to meet with further rearmament.

The cruise and Pershing-2 missiles are part of a U.S. strategy based on the feasibility of a nuclear exchange that would stop short of a total war of annihilation. President Reagan said as much in unguarded remarks last year.

They make limited nuclear war in Europe more likely. For -- The NATO missiles make war less likely by increasing the credibility of Western deterrence. A limited nuclear war is impossible, since it could not be kept under control.

The 572 cruise and Pershing-2 missiles due for deployment in five West European countries from December give the West rough parity with the Soviet SS-20. Moscow has already deployed more than 350 of these triple-warhead missiles against targets in Western Europe and the Far East.

Western determination to put medium-range missiles in Europe is the only way to induce the Soviet Union to negotiate reductions in its SS-20 arsenal at the Geneva Talks.

Against -- A nuclear balance already exists. The U.S. has "forward-based systems" (nuclear-capable planes and submarines) in Europe, in addition to the nuclear arsenals of France and Britain, all aimed at the Soviet Union.

Yet the West refuses to include any of these weapons in the Geneva negotiations.

For -- Moscow too has medium-range nuclear aircraft and submarines. The highly-accurate land-based SS-20s pose a new threat to Western Europe. The French and British systems serve strategic national defence and do not protect West Germany.

The West coupled its 1979 decision to rearm with reductions in short-range missiles and an offer of disarmament talks. NATO is prepared to forego or scale down deployment in return for Soviet reductions.

The Soviet Union at first refused to talk at all, then came to the negotiating table and has now offered at least some cuts in its medium-range nuclear arsenal. If Western resolve holds, the Kremlin will eventually agree to balanced disarmament.

Against -- The Pershing-2 is a first-strike weapon which is particularly destabilising because it can hit Soviet territory within about eight minutes of launch. It thus increases the danger of an accidental nuclear war. Soviet commanders would have almost

no time to take a political decision if, through a technical error, they saw what they thought was an approaching Pershing-2 on their radar screens.

Since it is to be sited in West Germany alone, it exposes this country to greater political and military retaliation. For -- The 108 single-warhead Pershing-2s could not reach Moscow, most Soviet command centres or most Soviet missile silos. They could not therefore be used for a first strike.

Accidental nuclear war belongs in the realm of science fiction. Both superpowers have sufficient security systems to prevent false alerts triggering a nuclear exchange.

Against -- Where will it all end? In two decades of arms control, all that has been achieved is a controlled increase in nuclear arsenals. The money wasted on atomic arms would be better spent on aiding developing countries and putting the West's unemployed back to work.

The only way out of the deadly arms spiral is for one side to take the first step. The West should renounce deployment unilaterally and shame the Soviet Union into following suit.

For -- Controlled rearmament may be cold comfort, but it is better than nothing. Freedom has its price. The Soviet Union has publicly rejected unilateral disarmament.

There is no example in history of one-sided disarmament deterring a potential aggressor. On the contrary, it only encourages the strong to bully the weak. Nobody negotiates with the defenceless.

Pan-African News meant to publicise brighter aspects

By Bahacar Diack
 Reuter

ABIDJAN -- Two months after its birth, a news agency designed to provide Africans with an "African view" of their own continent is claiming success.

The director of the Pan-African News Agency (PANA), Cheikh Ousmane Diakhaté, said it was succeeding in reporting Africa for Africans without what he called the imbalances of the industrialised world's major news organisations.

"We aim to go further than the Western news agencies in analysing African issues from an African perspective," he told Reuters in an interview. Third World nations have long criticised Western news organisations for alleged superficial reporting which they say tends to concentrate on negative aspects of developing countries such as political upheavals.

When African leaders set up the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) 20 years ago, they dreamed of a continent-wide instrument of information that would further their aim of African solidarity.

At the OAU's founding conference in May 1963, the African leaders agreed to provide the organisation with its own news agency, arguing that African events had not always been explained to the outside world with the necessary objectivity.

But it took 20 years for the agency to be set up, and a major stumbling block was how to create a single news organisation with countries that are ideologically far apart.

The problem was solved by a decision that PANA would retransmit, without alteration, news provided by national news agencies.

PANA officials admitted that this meant news reports were basically a reflection of each government's thinking, but they said it was important that news circulated at all.

One way round divisive issues such as the fighting in Chad or the dispute over the Western Sahara was to concentrate on Africa's

development efforts, they said. Mr. Diakhaté, a national of Niger and long an OAU official, said PANA was distributing news to 30 African countries, free of charge, from its headquarters in Dakar, Senegal.

The agency transmits between 8,000 and 18,000 words a day in its two official languages, English and French, and will soon start a service in Arabic for North Africa.

Dakar's government newspaper Le Soleil shows how PANA news may be used. On the Chad conflict the paper has carried reports from Western news agencies together with a PANA story from Tripoli, explaining Libya's support for rebels in Chad, and a further story from Kinshasa in which the Zaïre government said why it had sent troops.

A journalist on Le Soleil told Reuters: "We put the two radically divergent stories side by side and let our readers decide who is right and who is wrong."

But PANA has also met with criticism. One editor here in the capital of the Ivory Coast, which does not use PANA, said: "How can a news agency with 50 different bosses, and I mean countries, and as many political and ideological opinions, be viable?"

A non-profit-making body, PANA is heavily financed by the OAU and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), a vociferous critic of the major Western news agencies' reporting of Third World issues.

UNESCO granted PANA \$1,000,000 for technical equipment.

PANA is shortly due to start a features service essentially devoted to Africa's struggle to overcome under-development.

It plans to distribute news outside Africa via news agencies of countries belonging to the Non-Aligned Movement and send reports to U.N. headquarters in New York.

"In this way the voice of Africa will be amplified and PANA will enable us to give the world our own interpretation of African events or events from elsewhere that are important to us," Mr. Diakhaté said.

U.S. bears the burden of bailing out Israel

"The secret portions forecast a crisis building as Israel finds itself unable to repay its foreign debt of more than \$20 billion."

By Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

Although couched in fastidiously neutral language stripped of political buzz words, secret portions of a government study on U.S. aid to Israel pose this warning: The United States confronts a rising spiral in financing Israel that may be impossible to stop.

The study, between the lines of bureaucratic prose, tells a mournful tale of the United States' being repeatedly deceived by Israel. Pleas for one-time-only concessions became a pattern for the future, at high cost to American taxpayers. According to the study, Israel has camouflaged efforts to obtain U.S. financing for the Lebanon invasion.

The study by the congressional watchdog agency, the Gov-

ernment Accounting Office (GAO) was submitted to Secretary of State George Schultz and other officials March 23. Since then, a sanitized version has been released to the public, with sections classified secret kept from public view. The reason for their classification seems to have less to do with U.S. national security than with the state of U.S.-Israeli relations.

The secret portions forecast a crisis building as Israel finds itself unable to repay its foreign debt of more than \$20 billion in installments just beginning to peak. With the United States holding 45 per cent of that total debt, Israel by 1993 would need \$955 million in extra U.S. aid just to service its

debt to American taxpayers.

Israel is today the largest U.S. aid recipient. The GAO report's secret portions, however, predict that Israel will either seek still higher U.S. cash gifts to finance its debt or press Congress to require offsetting the loans by mandatory U.S. purchases of Israeli goods. But the likelihood of Israeli strategy would be a request for debt forgiveness. Whichever way the Israeli government goes, its record of getting what it wants from Congress faces a severe test — if American lawmakers read the GAO report.

The only alternative to higher American grant aid, more borrowing or outright debt forgiveness, the authoritative GAO study suggests, would be a political decision by the Israeli government to move toward economic austerity. Instead, the report continues, "Israel's strong unions have been able to extract real wage gains, thereby increasing (consumer) demand." Is-

rael industry naturally produces for this domestic market instead of selling abroad for foreign exchange.

Despite its restrained tone, the report recounts examples of one American president after another being outmaneuvered in dealings with Israel — most recently Ronald Reagan following the invasion of Lebanon. Quoting Israeli officials as saying the U.S.-opposed invasion "will not result in any increase" in demands for U.S. aid, the report flatly states that Israel has asked the United States for compensation for its losses during the Lebanon campaign. That was among the sections stamped "secret."

The classic example described in the secret sections shows how Israel has transformed U.S. aid (foreign military sales) that is intended solely for foreign countries buying military hardware off U.S. government shelves. In 1977, Israel talked the Carter administration into using \$107 million

of military aid to produce the Israeli-designed Merkava tank as unique case, said the report, "considered a one-time exception by both countries."

But in dealing with the Reagan administration, Israel cited the Merkava as a "precedent" for U.S. aid to build its proposed Lavi fighter aircraft. In May 1982, the defense minister, Ariel Sharon, turned the exception into common practice by requesting \$250 million a year for four years to boost production rates of the tank, develop the Lavi "and for other miscellaneous production."

But that is not the full story, according to the GAO report. After the United States reluctantly approved the financing for the original Lavi as a "low-cost replacement" for the obsolescent A4, the report says, Israel "changed" the design and performance characteristics.

The transformation to a "very advanced" aircraft was necessary, Israel told the United States, be-

cause the United States had started selling high-performance planes to Arab states.

Woven throughout the 69-page report are scrupulously neutral allusions to such Israeli use of Arab animosities to induce the United States to grant ever higher aid.

But there is not much fair-play-for-Arabs sentiment on Capitol Hill. What may catch the congressional eye in the midst of Israel's political appeal is a warning closer to home. "The many facets of the U.S. economy... must all be considered" in handling the escalating Israeli aid crunch that lies ahead, says the GAO. In other words, the congressional watchdogs are barking that the burden of bailing out Israel may be too much for American industry and labour to bear.

— The Washington Post

Hide and seek

Drivers play with the speed-trap radar the game of hide and seek. While the police hide in order to stop the maximum number of speeding drivers, those drivers in return search the horizon in order to avoid any "suspicious car".

We all recognise those Mercedes cars with the different plates innocently parked on the side of the street and we try to avoid them as often as we can.

Or else when we see them from far we step on our brake pedals and thus pass them by at the legal speed, even though after that we speed again.

But the gentlemen of the radar, aware of the game, have found new tricks to catch us. If there is a trench they hide there so that you won't be able to spot them, or like they do in Wadi Saqra, a policeman sits peacefully in the shade smoking a cigarette. Beware, the radar is next to him on the ground.

The stories of the radar are sometimes funny. I have been told that on the Zarqa Highway a speeding truck was stopped and in lieu of payment, it was agreed that the truck would be parked on the side of the street for two hours to hide the car carrying the radar.

Needless to say the fines collected during those two hours was much higher than usual, due to the fact that the drivers were not aware of the police car which was hiding behind the truck.

West Bank poll shows Palestinians favour Arafat's leadership

An opinion poll in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was conducted by Al-Bayader Assiyasi, an occupied Jerusalem-based weekly, news magazine, on different issues presented in the field, and issues that relate to the current affairs which the Palestinians follow up with great anxiety, and which have important reflections on the Arab and world fields. This is the second opinion poll conducted by Al-Bayader Assiyasi during less than a year. This poll was conducted in the last week of June 1983. A random selection was taken from all sectors of a total of 777 Palestinians. Special forms were distributed for this purpose and included seven important questions. These are the most important results:

QUESTION 1 Do you agree to the continuation of Yasser Arafat as leader of the Palestinian march?
Yes: 716 (92.15%)
No: 42 (5.41%)
No opinion: 19 (2.44%)

QUESTION 2 Do you support the continuation of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue?
Yes: 559 (71.95%)
No: 183 (23.55%)
No opinion: 35 (4.50%)

QUESTION 3 Do you support initiating an Egyptian-Palestinian dialogue?
Yes: 431 (55.47%)
No: 293 (37.71%)
No opinion: 53 (6.82%)

QUESTION 4 Do you think that the United States will exercise practical pressures on Israel?
Yes: 213 (27.42%)
No: 535 (68.85%)
No opinion: 29 (3.73%)

QUESTION 5 Do you think that Syria will withdraw its forces from Lebanon within an American framework?
Yes: 582 (74.90%)
No: 131 (16.86%)
No opinion: 64 (8.24%)

QUESTION 6 Do you support the Arab peace project of the Fez Summit?
Yes: 585 (75.29%)
No: 128 (16.47%)
No opinion: 64 (8.24%)

QUESTION 7 Do you support the continuation of the Palestinian contacts with the Israeli peace forces?
Yes: 443 (57.04%)
No: 248 (31.90%)
No opinion: 86 (11.06%)

Job distribution in those contributing to the poll

Job	Labourers	Students	Professionals	Clergies	Employees	Teachers	Farmers
No.	106	125	202	37	171	84	47
Perc.	13.64%	16.09%	26.01%	4.76%	22.01%	11.45%	6.15%

Age distribution in the poll

Age (yrs.)	Below 20	20-29	30-39	40-49	Over 50
No.	71	225	245	181	55
Perc.	9.14%	28.96%	31.53%	23.30%	7.17%

Sex distribution of the contributors

Male	626	(80.57%)
Female	151	(19.43%)
Total: 777		(100.0%)

Geographical distribution of the contributors to the poll

Region	Number	Percentage
Middle Region (West Bank)	271	34.88%
Northern Region (West Bank)	191	24.58%
Southern Region (West Bank)	232	29.86%
Gaza Strip	83	10.68%
Total	777	100%

Level of education of contributors

Education	Number	Percentage
Elementary	85	10.94%
Secondary	263	33.85%
University	385	49.55%
Literates	44	5.66%
Total	777	100.00%

Place of residence of contributors

Place	Number	Percentage
Cities	324	41.70%
Villages	295	37.97%
Refugee Camps	158	20.33%
Total	777	100.00%

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SPORTS

Kratochvilova smashes world record to take second gold

HELSINKI (R) — Jarmila Kratochvilova of Czechoslovakia smashed the world record for the women's 400 metres Wednesday to take her second gold medal in two days at the inaugural World Athletics Championships.

Kratochvilova hurtled across the line in 47.99 seconds, breaking the previous record of 48.15 set by East Germany's Maria Koch at last September's European Championships in Athens.

Tuesday Kratochvilova, who broke the world 800 metres record 15 days ago, took the 800 title here with an awesome exhibition of power and technique.

Wednesday she was even more dominant, ruthlessly overpowering her rivals as she thundered down the home straight.

Her compatriot Tatiana Kocembova finished second in 48.59, with Maria Pinigina of the Soviet Union well back in third place in 49.19.

Any disappointment Kocembova — seemingly doomed to remain in the shadow of her 32-year-old compatriot — felt at yet another second placing was quickly

forgotten as the two teammates embraced for some seconds before circling the track hand-in-hand in a triumphal victory lap.

Wednesday's record was testimony to Kratochvilova's punishing training programme which has enabled her to challenge the East German monopoly over 400 metres relatively late in her athletic career.

Unfortunately, Koch's decision to run only the 100 and 200 metres denied the warmly appreciative crowd at Helsinki's Olympic stadium the chance to see what had promised to be a classic duel, especially after Kratochvilova's poor performance at the European Championships.

The men's 400 metres title predictably went to Jamaica's 23-year-old Bert Cameron, whose long strides took him to the line in 45.05 in front of Americans Michael Franks and Sunder Nix, who returned 45.22 and 45.26 respectively.

West Germany's Erwin Skamrah, who has the fastest time this year of 44.50, sacrificed any chance of a medal as he strained to

keep Cameron in view in the final straight.

Skamrah glanced to his left three times in the final 20 metres, destroying his rhythm and allowing Franks and Nix to sneak through.

Kratochvilova later told reporters: "Today I just wanted to win, but I didn't think I'd set a world record."

The Czechoslovak, whose race Wednesday was her seventh in four days, said she was glad she now had two free days before the 4 x 400 metres relay.

The first event of the evening saw a minor surprise in the women's 400 metres hurdles final when the Soviet Union's Ekaterina Pesenko pipped her compatriot Anna Ambrazene, the world record holder, for the gold medal.

Pesenko finished in 54.14, one hundredth of a second ahead of Ambrazene with East Germany's Ellen Fiedler third in 54.55.

There was a bigger upset in the women's discus where world record holder Galina Savinkova of the Soviet Union maintained her dubious record of never having won a major championship.

Savinkova finished 11th out of 12 in the final won by East German Martina Opitz with a throw of 68.94 metres, well behind Savinkova's world record of 73.26.

The women's 3,000 metres produced a popular victory for 24-year-old American Mary Decker, the world record-holder for the non-championship 5,000 metres.

Decker, who set three outdoor and four indoor world records last

year, led from start to finish but looked briefly threatened in the final straight as world record-holder Svetlana Ulmasova made her challenge.

But Decker fought back and it was the European Champion who flagged, eventually finishing out of the medals as Decker strode across the line exhausted but triumphant in eight minutes 34.62 seconds.

East Germany's Brigitte Kraus was second in 8:35.11 while the Soviet Union's 1,500 metres world record-holder Tatiana Kazankina nudged ahead of Ulmasova to snatch the bronze in 8:35.13.

Navratilova, Lloyd gain easy victories

LOS ANGELES (R) — Wimbledon Champion Martina Navratilova and French Open winner Chris Evert-Lloyd had easy victories here Tuesday night in the first round of a \$150,000 professional tennis tournament.

Navratilova, seeded first, rolled over Ann Henricksson of the United States 6-1, 6-1 while Evert-Lloyd, the second seed, strolled past Lele Foroud of the United States 6-4, 6-2.

But Evert-Lloyd told reporters afterwards: "I never play well the first couple of rounds. It always takes me that long to 'get into' a tournament."

Hussein attends Arab basketball semi-finals

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday attended the basketball semi-final between Jordan and Iraq which was held at the Sport City's Sport Palace as a part of the fifth Arab Basketball Championship.

Jordan beat Iraq 86/85 after extra time as the game ended by a draw 75/75. During the extra time Jordan scores 11 points against 10 points by the Iraqi team.

The game ended with one point difference — an exciting and tension packed game and a very magnificent performance by both teams.

In women's competition Iraq beat Jordan 65/61 in the semi-finals and Somalia beat Lebanon 68/44.

Also Wednesday Tunisia beat Saudi Arabia 74/72 also after extra time.

The final game which will be played on Thursday will be between Jordan and Tunisia for the cup of the fifth Arab Basketball Championship which included nine Arab countries.

Tough test for Jordan Car Rally entrants

By Dina Matar

AMMAN — Rough desert tracks and blistering heat will pose a tough test for the 31 entrants in the 1,500 km (938 mile) Jordan Car Rally which starts here Thursday.

The rally, the first in the newly-created Middle East Championship, will take entrants, who come from Oman, Dubai, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Britain, to the Red Sea port of Aqaba and back to Amman.

Similar rallies are scheduled in Oman, Dubai, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar over the next six months.

Thirteen teams from Jordan, 15 from the Gulf and three from England will take part in the two-day rally, most of it over desert and in temperatures reaching 40 degrees centigrade (104 fahrenheit). Fourteen entries are sponsored.

The first prize will be JD 500 (\$1,600) followed by JD 250 (\$800) for second place and JD 125 (\$400) for third.

The prizes will be presented by Prince Abdullah, whose father King Hussein was a hill-climb enthusiast in the 1960s.

Jordan held local rallies in 1981 and 1982, but the organisers of the Middle East Championship said this year's will be the first to include a range of powerful cars, mainly from Japan and West Germany.

"Perhaps this rally's attraction is the fact that it is open to everybody... it seems to have become an international event to be reckoned with," Ghassan Asfour, one of the organisers, said.

Kuwait's Michel Saleh, who won the last two Jordan rallies and this year teams up with Tony Samia of Lebanon in a Toyota, said when asked about his chances: "It all depends on God."

He is expected to face stiff competition from Qatar's Al-Hajri, winner of the 1982/83 Gulf Rally challenge, who is teamed with Britain's John Spiller in a sponsored Opel Manta.

Rally organisers, led by Jordan's Royal Automobile Club, have had to train about 100 helpers and produce two pamphlets detailing the route, even down to the bigger humps.

Some of the entrants have already had problems. Britain's David Evans drove his Vauxhall Chevette all the way from England only to be fined JD 50 (\$160) by police here for speeding.

Hungary protests against FIDE

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary Wednesday protested against an International Chess Federation (FIDE) ruling awarding a world championship semi-final match to Hungarian grand master Zoltan Ribli by default of his Soviet opponent Vasily Smyslov.

In a statement published by the official news agency MTI, the Hungarian Chess Federation described the FIDE move as an arbitrary decision that ignored efforts to have the match, scheduled for last Saturday in Abu Dhabi, transferred to another venue.

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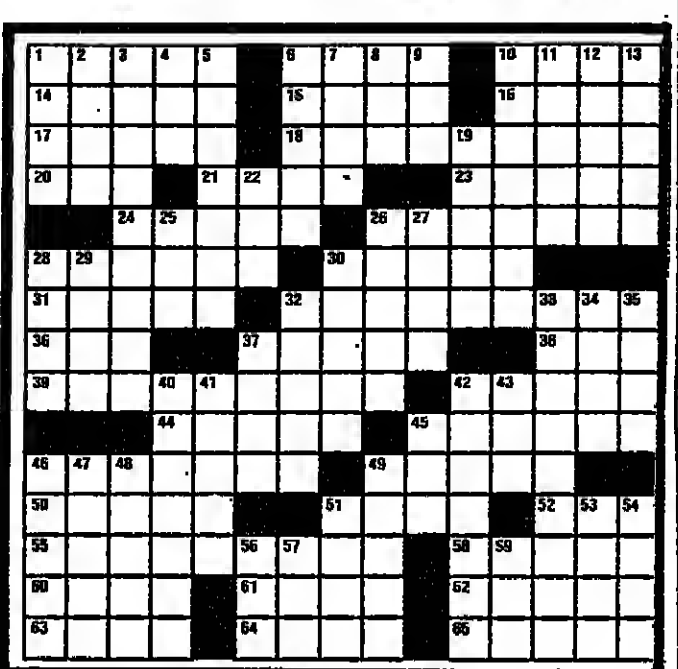
THE Daily Crossword by May Mannix

ACROSS	26 Certain children	49 Averse	22 Owns
1 Hunter of Boeotia	28 Objects of dislike	50 Posing again	25 First lady
8 Verve	30 Taper a timber	51 Ancient Englishman	26 Reserved
10 Worry	31 Goose genus	52 WW II group	27 Uncommon
14 Sal of baseball	32 Feeling the drought	55 Keaton role	28 Former TV host
15 Toe the —	36 Lawyer: abbr.	58 David of 1880 novel	29 Within: comb. form
16 Bullish	37 Relative	60 Stadium feature	30 Valentino role
17 Before lace or weave	38 Cavalier base	61 Vicinity	32 Bushed
18 Historic act of 1941	39 Friml opera	62 — Dinsmore	33 Locomotive engine
20 French season	42 — the bill (pays)	63 Rews	34 Observe
21 At another time	44 Author of "R.U.R."	65 Della from Detroit	35 Adventure
23 Flower	45 Cuddling agent	DOWN	37 Neck part
24 Irish-American actress	46 Elevated	1 Theater award	40 Baked item
		2 Declaim	41 Not glossy
		3 Hobbies	42 Flamingo
		4 Lyric work	43 Neighbor of Que.
		5 Certain wind	45 Striped bird
		6 Actress	46 Lady with a lyre
		7 Burstyn	47 Ohio city
		8 Legal holding	48 "Lou Grant"
		9 Dancer	49 Fragrant shrub
		10 Actor	51 Argued a case
		11 Beatty	53 "Jy —, Py rate"
		12 Small flood	54 Pirate in "Peter Pan"
		13 Cowboy rope	56 Sandwich meat
		14 German city	57 Equip
		15 Golfers, at times	58 Stout relative
		16 Northern nomads	

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS	DOWN
1. HUNTER OF BOEOTIA	1. THEATER AWARD
8. VERVE	2. DECLAIM
10. WORRY	3. HOBBIES
14. SAL OF BASEBALL	4. LYRIC WORK
15. TOE THE —	5. CERTAIN WIND
16. BULLISH	6. ACTRESS
17. BEFORE LACE OR WEAWE	7. BURSTYN
18. HISTORIC ACT OF 1941	8. LEGAL HOLDING
20. FRENCH SEASON	9. DANCER
21. AT ANOTHER TIME	10. ACTOR
23. FLOWER	11. BEATTY
24. IRISH-AMERICAN ACTRESS	12. SMALL FLOOD
	13. COWBOY ROPE
	14. GERMAN CITY
	15. GOLFERS, AT TIMES
	16. NORTHERN NOMADS

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Israel devalues shekel

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel devalued the shekel by almost seven per cent against the dollar Wednesday in an apparent attempt to cool panic buying of the soaring U.S. currency.

The Bank of Israel cut its selling price from 57.13 to 53.14 shekels to the dollar — a devaluation of 6.98 per cent by the generally used International Monetary Fund (IMF) calculation.

It said new rates against other currencies would be set later.

For weeks, ordinary Israelis have been heavily buying U.S. dollars, anticipating that the government would be forced to abandon its controversial policy of slowing the shekel's devaluation to check triple-figure inflation.

The buying developed into near-panic Tuesday and some bank branches turned away customers, saying they had run out of all foreign currency.

Wednesday's move fuelled an atmosphere of financial uncertainty.

Government ministers are working on an emergency package of austerity measures with the treasury calling for big cuts in public spending and new taxes to stabilize the economy.

The Tel Aviv stock exchange closed for the day after the announcement.

A spokesman for one bank reported that the rush for dollars had not ebbed and stunned customers crowded its branches seeking information.

The Bank of Israel called the measure "a one-time action to close the gap" between the shekel and foreign currencies.

Since last September it has held back the shekel's fall, making small, daily adjustments that added up to a monthly devaluation of five to six per cent —

far less than inflation.

With inflation now running at a near-record 140 per cent a year, Finance Minister Yoram Aridor's policy has been denounced as a failure by government opponents.

Exports have dropped, imports and foreign debt repayments have risen sharply.

In July the government printed 13.5 billion shekels (\$236 million at the new rate) in money, more than the total for the previous three months, as worried Israelis switched to dollars.

The Lebanon war has been costing Israel about \$1 million a day and its plan to pull the army back to safer positions in South Lebanon is expected to cost at least another \$30 million.

After a boom in 1982, prices have slumped on the Tel Aviv stock exchange and many small investors have sold up shares and bought dollars.

ICA to receive JD 700,000 syndicated loan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Company (ICA) is to receive a JD 700,000 syndicated loan to finance the purchase of raw materials for its soap and detergent factories, according to an agreement signed in Amman Tuesday.

Under the agreement, the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) will supply JD 350,000 of the money and the rest will be born equally by the Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation and the Arab Jordanian Investment Bank.

The IDB is to lead manage the loan. A spokesman for the IDB said that the new locally raised loan is designed to encourage national industrial projects. The IDB has to date this year supplied JD 1,976 million in loans to local companies, the spokesman said.

Soviet-U.S. trade drops by 42%

MOSCOW (R) — Trade between the Soviet Union and the United States dropped by 42.2 per cent in the first half of 1983 compared with the same period last year to reach its lowest level for 16 years, according to preliminary figures published Wednesday.

The figures, printed in the weekly Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta, showed that turnover between Moscow and Washington dropped to 1.01 billion rubles (\$1.36 billion) in the first six months of this year.

This compared with the final official figure of 1.75 billion rubles (\$2.36 billion) for the same period in 1982.

Western economic experts said the main reason for the large drop in trade, apart from deteriorating relations, was that Moscow had bought less grain this year than last.

They said the level should pick up now a new grain deal, agreed in

Vienna last month, had been signed.

Under the accord, the Soviet Union must buy up to nine million tonnes of corn and grain a year, compared with six million tonnes under the old deal.

A report accompanying Wednesday's figures said the U.S. was leading a Western economic attack on socialist countries aimed at undermining normal relations.

The figures showed that trade with the West had dropped by 42.2 per cent to 19.5 billion rubles (\$26.5 billion) in the first half of 1983 compared with the same 1982 period.

This followed a 13.6 per cent rise the previous year.

Trade with West Germany, Moscow's biggest Western trading partner, slipped by 11.9 per cent in the first half of 1983 compared with January-June 1982.

Trade with West Germany accounted for 3.36 billion rubles

(\$4.54 billion) in the first six months of 1983 against 3.4 billion rubles (\$4.6 billion) in the same period of 1982.

Western economic experts attached no significance to the drop in trade with Bonn, saying late deliveries could account for the small percentage reduction in volume.

West Germany was clearly still the top Western trading partner, followed by Finland whose trade turnover registered a small increase of 1.9 per cent to 2.51 billion rubles (\$3.39 billion) in the first half of 1983.

Trade with Japan was down 15.4 per cent to 1.625 billion rubles (\$2.2 billion) compared with 1.92 billion rubles (\$2.6 billion) in the first six months of 1982.

But trade with the Netherlands leapt by 24.4 per cent to 1.2 billion rubles (\$1.6 billion), with Italy it rose by 14.6 per cent to 2.24 bil-

lion rubles (\$3.02 billion) and with France by 11.4 per cent to 2.11 billion rubles (\$2.8 billion).

The weekly said trade with Britain increased by 13.2 per cent to 11.87 billion rubles (\$1.67 billion).

The figures showed that 56.1 per cent of Soviet foreign trade was with other socialist countries, 30.3 per cent with the West and 13.6 per cent with developing countries.

The overall volume of trade with the rest of the world rose by 6.8 per cent in the first half of 1983 compared with the same period last year.

Turnover reached 64.4 billion rubles (\$86.9 billion) compared with 60.3 billion rubles (\$81.4 billion).

In January-June 1982, the increase in foreign trade was 11 per cent over the first six months of 1981.

Lisbon raises interest rates

LISBON (R) — Portugal raised interest rates by two points on deposits and 2.5 points for borrowing as part of a tough austerity package, the Portuguese finance ministry said Tuesday.

The austerity measures coincided with the initialing of a let-

ter of intent for a stand-by loan of \$480 million from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), negotiated here over the past three weeks.

The loan is more than the \$300 million originally expected.

The package, which will last for

18 months, is aimed at limiting Portugal's foreign debt which the ministry said stood at \$14.2 billion in April this year, a rise of nearly \$1 billion since the end of 1982.

The new interest rates, effective Tuesday, mean short term loans will be charged at 29.5 per cent and loans of five years at 32.5 per cent, the finance ministry said.

A foreign ministry statement said other measures would include control over public spending, realistic prices in public enterprises, control over wage increases in state industry and public service and reduced investment in public industry.

Portugal's exports have been hard hit by the world recession in the past two years, while high interest rates and the rising dollar have increased the burden of its foreign debt.

The finance ministry statement said the current crawling peg devaluation of the escudo at one per cent a month would continue.

Dollar hits new highs

LONDON (R) — The dollar rose to new peaks against the French and Belgian francs and to another 9 1/2 year high against the mark Wednesday amid signs of ebbing central bank intervention to curb its continued strength, dealers said.

Trading opened at much higher levels in Europe following a surge in the Far East on remarks by West German Central Bank (Bundesbank) President Carl Otto Poehl which suggested no dramatic action will be taken to curb the U.S. currency.

After pausing in the morning, the dollar resumed its seemingly relentless rise.

A Frankfurt fix of 2.7120 marks, the dollar's highest since mid-February 1974, was followed by trading at over 2.72 marks in mid-afternoon.

Mr. Poehl's comments in a television interview Tuesday night boosted the U.S. currency as they suggested the Bundesbank would

not raise West German interest rates and induce operators to buy marks instead of dollars.

In Brussels, the dollar was fixed at a record 54.3675 convertible Belgian francs, up from 53.8251 Tuesday.

In Paris, the dollar was fixed at 169.1691 francs, the third record in four business days.

The world's leading central banks, with the exception of the Bank of England, have sold hundreds of millions of dollars in the past few days in an attempt to stem the dollar's rise and protect their own currencies.

Sources at the Belgian National Bank said Wednesday the bank sold around \$85 million in intervention efforts in the week to this Monday.

Demand for the dollar has remained firm, however, and was boosted when major U.S. banks raised their prime rate to 11 per cent from 10 1/2 per cent on Monday.

Signs of a fall in central bank

intervention also helped the dollar Wednesday, dealers said.

The Bundesbank sold \$35 million at the Frankfurt fix, a modest amount in comparison with last week.

Neither was the bank particularly noticeable in the open market either, dealers said, although it may have been a sporadic seller when the dollar first broke past 2.71 marks in early trading.

Lingering suspicions that West Germany might raise interest rates were almost dispelled with Wednesday's news that the Bundesbank council will not hold a press conference. Its traditional forum for announcing such moves, after its meeting Thursday.

West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg also expressed his opposition to a rise in West German interest rates in an article published in the Christian Democratic Party press service Wednesday.

Egypt to receive \$119m U.S. aid

CAIRO (R) — The U.S. will provide Egypt with \$119 million, part of its 1983 economic assistance programme, to finance the construction of a power station and feasibility studies on development projects.

Under two agreements signed Tuesday, \$109 million were allocated to finance the construction of a 150-megawatt power station in the area of Abu Sultan near the Suez Canal city of Ismailia.

The Abu Sultan unit is the fourth in a U.S.-sponsored power plant in the area which, when fully operational, will yield a total of 600 megawatts.

Egypt's minister of investment and international cooperation Mr. Wagh Shindi, who signed the agreement, said the power plant would contribute significantly to the expansion of agriculture, housing and industry in the Suez Canal area and parts of the Sinai desert peninsula.

The U.S. charge d'affaires in Cairo, Mr. Henry Brecht, told the signing ceremony that Tuesday's agreement brought the funds the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has spent so far on Egypt's power-generating installations up to more than \$800 million.

The U.S. have given Egypt a total of \$8.6 billion in aid since the economic assistance programme got under way in 1974.

Further allocations of aid funds to electrical power stations are believed by Western experts in Cairo to be dependent on the outcome of talks between the two sides on the artificially low electricity charges in Egypt.

According to these experts, the subsidised low consumer prices of electricity in Egypt result in a lack of funds needed to maintain the 1,800-megawatt power stations the U.S. has so far financed.

Tuesday's second agreement provides \$10 million for feasibility studies on various development projects listed in Egypt's five-year development plan.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed, but in late trading dealers said prices tended to ease in line with lower Wall Street. At 1400 GMT the FT index was up 1.7 at 726.4.

B.P. rose 12p to 428 following an upgrading of brokers' profits forecasts. ICI was 6p higher at 558 and P and O 9p firmer at 207. Movements in general were limited to a penny or two, however, in moderate trading, dealers said. Oils with Irish interest were again active, ending above early lows following Gulf's drilling report on a well off Ireland.

Government bonds were lower. Golds fell with bullion, and U.S. shares were mixed.

The insurance reporting season began with half year results from Commercial Union and General Accident, both showing increased profits. Commercial disappointed on balance, dealers said, and fell 5p to 160. General Accident gained 14p at 445. UBM group rose 23p to 122 following a bid from Norcross, down 7p at 136. Among the Irish oil stocks, Atlantic Resources rallied to show a net 10p fall at 440 after 395, while Aran was down 4p at 62 after 56. Dalgety gained 11p at 382 after Tuesday's purchase of Ranks Hovis' agricultural division.

Bonds eased gradually from a lower opening. Falls stretched to 5/8 point reflecting weakness in U.S. bonds, dealers said.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

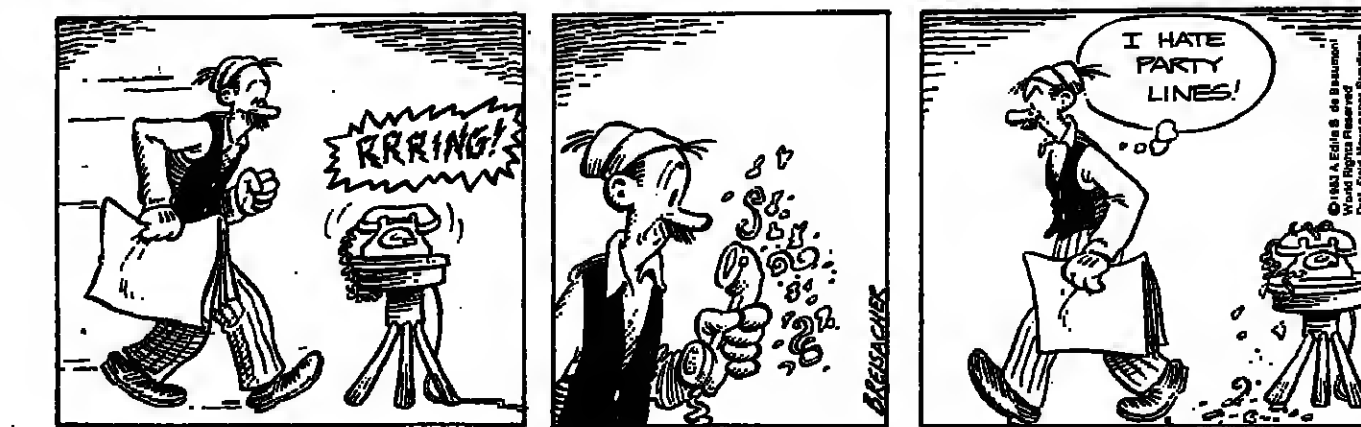
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4855/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3365/68	Canadian dollars
	2.7105/15	West German marks
	3.0295/0305	Dutch guilders
	2.1910/20	Swiss francs
	54.28/32	Belgian francs
	8.1530/60	French francs
	1603.75/1604.75	Italian lire
	245.35/45	Japanese yen
	7.9230/40	Swedish crowns
	7.5300/50	Norwegian crowns
	9.7535/85	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	407.75/408.25	U.S. dollars

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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GACHER

SOME PEOPLE KEEP TRYING ON SHOES UNTIL THE SALESMAN DOES THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CRIME AISLE, CACTUS KNOTTY

Answer: Could it be a raincoat for wear in the big town? — A CITY SLICKER

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning is an excellent time to arrange the details of whatever plan of action is important to you and devise ways to make it work, after which you can implement plans.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get into all that work ahead of you and get it done, later giving the finishing touches. Be more cooperative with co-workers.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Early make plans for recreation. Then delve right into work ahead of you and be precise. Please kin by being helpful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get busy at repairs to the home early and get them done, then gain the favor of some close tie. Be wise and plan ahead.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You can communicate very nicely with others today. Happiness can be yours at home.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Study your monetary affairs well and know just where you do stand, make improvements to them. Be sociable.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Early decide which ideals you want to follow in the days ahead and then use practical methods. Confer with hawks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) Plan your future secretly, then discuss your ideas with an advisor or expert who can assist you with them. Express happiness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be positive in going after your desires and then garner the information that you need. State aims to friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Improving your status in public is wise in the morning and later you can go after your personal aims.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You get many new ideas but choose those you really want to put in motion, and get the aid of practical-minded persons.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Conferences are best held for business purposes and later you can encounter new outlets to be studied.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be sure you know how you stand with partners and then you can carry through with pertinent work. Utilize tact.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY . . . he or she will be very capable and can have much success in life, provided that a good education is planned now and much knowledge absorbed in early years. Your progeny will want to be alone a good deal during youth.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning has a very adverse influence which requires that you use care and caution with other persons to avoid a harsh and unforgiving condition which is brewing.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) If you get too emotional you cannot straighten out a matter between a family tie and an outsider, so compose yourself.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You may find it hard to communicate with a friend early in the day, but later can do so very well. Stress harmony.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Forget that expensive entertainment you have in mind and get your talents working constructively instead.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Be very careful and cautious with those at home and prevent any trouble from erupting.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Don't get so involved with a private worry that you fail to gain the outside benefits that could be yours.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan your time so that you can soothe a worried friend and also help another a short distance away. Use patience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) If you are too demanding now, you can have a serious setback where some aim is concerned, so tread lightly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You feel like making some very radical changes, but don't do it. Make quiet plans for the future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A friend could keep you from meeting an important obligation if you go out with him, or her, so stay put.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A partner and a person in power could be having an argument so don't interfere and it will soon be over.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) First get some new method organized and then you can do a better job of your work. Seek advice from an expert.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Try to control your temper when a pal and a person in business come into an argument, otherwise you become the scapegoat.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY . . . he or she will have a very hot temper and can get in trouble early because of it so teach to be more reasonable and listen to what others have to say, even though he, or she may not agree with views of others.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

WORLD

Troops warm up for Honduran exercises

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — U.S. military planes carrying troops and equipment were landing in the northern Honduran town of San Pedro Sula Wednesday, at the start of military manoeuvres on an unprecedented scale in the Central American region.

The war games will involve 5,600 U.S. ground troops, 6,000 Honduran troops and 19 U.S. warships carrying 16,000 military personnel.

The operation, dubbed "Big Pine II", is designed as a display of U.S. military might in the face of what President Reagan sees as spreading Soviet influence in the area.

U.S. and Honduran authorities declined to say how many troops

had arrived so far or the kind of equipment they were carrying. But they said flights would continue to land daily during the next few months.

One thousand U.S. troops will be based in the town of Comayagua, headquarters for the exercises some 60 kilometres north of the capital, Honduran military sources said.

A group of some 50 to 100 were Wednesday pitching tents at the

base in preparation for the arrival of 1,000 to 1,500 more next week, one military source said.

U.S. troops Tuesday told Reuters they had received little briefing on Honduras.

"We found out about our assignment by reading the Arkansas Gazette," quipped one soldier.

The manoeuvres are designed to put pressure on the Sandinist regime of Nicaragua, which Mr. Reagan has accused of exporting its own brand of leftwing revolution to its neighbours.

The U.S. show of military might has drawn sharp criticism from both U.S. Congress members and Latin American diplomats, who said they contradicted efforts at peace talks to resolve the region's problems.

The exercises are scheduled to last at least six months and are expected to cost far more than the \$5 million spent on "Big Pine I" conducted here last February.

Meanwhile Nicaragua has warned of an all-out war with neighbouring Honduras and accused it of increasing its aid to U.S.-backed rebels fighting to topple the Sandinist regime.

Outlining a planned national military service law to a public session of the country's state council, Nicaraguan Defence Minister Humberto Ortega Tuesday night said an all-out war with Honduras would spread through Central America and prompt U.S. military intervention.

He said the Sandinists, who ousted dictator Anastasio Somoza in

a revolution four years ago, were introducing military service to strengthen the army.

In other developments, hundreds of medical students gathered in Tegucigalpa Tuesday protesting what they see as an increasing disrespect for human rights in their country.

Their demonstration followed allegations made to reporters by the dean of the National University Medical School, Felipe Raul Calix, that he was kidnapped and tortured by government agents for 12 hours before being returned half-conscious to his home.

According to the national human rights commission, 45 Hondurans have disappeared during the last three years, ten of them during 1983.

Sri Lanka releases grim statistics

COLOMBO (R) — At least 362 people were killed in communal violence which erupted in Sri Lanka after Tamil separatist guerrillas killed 13 government soldiers in an ambush last month, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

The spokesman was revising an official toll of 315 announced last week. He said the figure included 20 people gunned down by the army in northern Jaffna district, where the ambush took place on July 23.

At the same time, Information Minister Anandadasa de Alwis, speaking after a cabinet meeting Wednesday, said no fresh incidents had been reported recently and the government was satisfied the security situation on the island had now returned to normal.

In New Delhi, Sri Lankan envoy Hector Jayewardene, younger brother of President Julius Jayewardene, had an 80-minute meeting Wednesday with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He described the talks as good, but declined to elaborate.

The Sri Lankan government has said that the Tamil guerrillas seeking a separate state in northern Sri Lanka operated from southern India, home of most of India's own Tamil population.

Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel said earlier this week the rioting had put the island's economy back by two to five years.

Information Minister de Alwis said Wednesday the cabinet was told of a detailed Labour Department survey which showed that 64 factories and smaller manufacturing units, and 1,100 shops had been damaged or destroyed in the Colombo area. More than 1,300 others were affected in the rest of the country.

But Mr. de Alwis added that no factories had been affected in a free trade zone where foreign investors established projects.

The government has set up a special organisation with wide powers to help repair and reconstruct damaged businesses.

British soldier charged with murder in Belfast

BELFAST (R) — An 18-year-old British soldier appeared in court charged with murdering an unarmed man who was shot dead in an encounter with patrolling troops in Northern Ireland.

The shooting Tuesday set off a second successive night of rioting in Belfast, capital of the British-ruled province.

Private Ian Richard Thain, of the 1st Light Infantry Regiment, was dressed in civilian clothes for an eight-minute court appearance and was remanded in military custody.

Pvt. Thain spoke just two words, answering "Yes sir" when the magistrate asked if he understood the proceedings.

He was accused of killing Thomas Reilly, 22, who died from a single bullet in the chest. Police said the shooting happened after a fracas between Catholic youths and an army foot patrol in predominantly Catholic West Belfast.

Britain keeps more than 10,000 troops in Northern Ireland, where sectarian strife has claimed more than 2,300 lives in the past 13 years.

The shooting followed a night of rioting on the 12th anniversary of the introduction of internment without trial for alleged guerrillas. Over 60 people were arrested, including a member of Noraid, the Irish-American organisation that

raises funds for the nationalist cause.

Stephen Lich from Indianapolis, a member of an 80-strong group organised by Noraid which is touring the province, was charged with riotous conduct and will appear in court on Thursday.

News of the shooting of Reilly Tuesday immediately sparked off a fresh bout of rioting, in which two buses were hijacked and set alight, and there were calls from politicians of various opinions for a full inquiry into the incident.

Against this background there was an angry exchange Tuesday between a senior British official in the Northern Ireland Office, Nicholas Scott, and the head of the Noraid party, Martin Galvin.

Mr. Galvin said the British government had refused to meet the delegation because it had too much to hide.

Asked to comment on the rioting during the previous night, Mr. Galvin said what he had seen was an expression of anger at the nature of British rule in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Scott retorted that the Noraid million, which had described itself as fact-finding, was nothing but a charade since it had not made contact with members of moderate Catholic parties, the Protestant majority in the province or victims of nationalist guerrilla violence.

P2 leader disappears from cell

GENEVA (R) — Italian P2 Masonic lodge leader Licio Gelli disappeared from his cell in a Swiss jail during the night and an investigating judge said Wednesday he could have been kidnapped.

Judge Jacques Foez, who is heading an inquiry into Mr. Gelli's disappearance, said: "Some indications have raised the possibility that he did not leave his cell voluntarily." He gave no further details.

The lawyer representing Mr. Gelli, who is wanted in Italy in connection with the collapse of the Milan Banco Ambrosiano last year, said he was convinced his client had been kidnapped.

The lawyer, Dominique Poncet, told reporters the cell in Champollin prison on the outskirts of Geneva was in a state of disorder and contained a syringe and traces of blood.

Mr. Gelli was arrested last Sept. 13 while trying to draw funds out of a secret numbered Geneva bank account.

Last month the Swiss Justice Department said it was treating an Italian request for his extradition favourably but was still studying

the case.

A Geneva police spokesman said the escape was discovered after a police patrol noticed that a wire fence surrounding the jail had been cut.

The spokesman said he could give no further details since an inquiry into the escape was still going on.

In June, the Swiss Supreme Court rejected an application for the provisional release of Mr. Gelli, 64. It was made by his lawyer on the grounds of ill health and the length of his detention.

S. Korea unlikely to extradite defector

SEOUL (R) — South Korea is unlikely to agree to a request by China for the return of a Chinese test pilot who defected to South Korea last Sunday, officials said Wednesday.

But they repeated that the South Korean government would agree to negotiate with Peking about the return of the MIG-21 fighter flown here by pilot Sun Tiao-Chin if Peking requested this.

Government officials said Tuesday that South Korea was prepared to let Sun go to a third country, believed to be Taiwan.

Taiwanese ambassador Hsueh Yu-Chi met Deputy Foreign Minister Rho Jae-Won and was asked by reporters later about a government statement in Peking Tuesday that the defector and the MIG should be returned to China.

Mr. Hsueh said: "As Mr. Sun is a political refugee who repudiated the Chinese government and defected, such claims should naturally be ignored."

Ambassador Hsueh asked South Korea to send Sun, 46, and the MIG-21 to Taiwan, which has offered Sun \$3.5 million in gold if he settles there.

Prime Minister Kim Sang-Hyup met senior cabinet ministers Tuesday and officials said they confirmed that the government would deal with the defector on humanitarian grounds in accordance with international practice.

The ministers also confirmed that the MIG-21, similar to fighters used by North Korea, would be kept in South Korea unless Peking requested its return.

Analysts say the latest incident as embarrassing for South Korea at a time when it hoped to improve relations with China.

Thais seize 450 kg drugs

BANGKOK (R) — Thai troops have seized about 450 kilograms of opium after clashes with guerrillas loyal to drugs warlord Khun Sa on the Thai-Burmese border, an army spokesman said Wednesday.

Shun Sa reportedly commands the biggest drug-trafficking force in the "golden triangle" straddling the borders of Laos, Thailand and Burma.

The opium, valued at 100 million baht (\$4.3 million), was seized at a heroin refinery on Sunday when troops raided it during four days of fighting.

Deputy Prime Minister Prachaichai Suntharangkul said on Monday that two soldiers were killed and 48 wounded in the operation.

Rome gets break

ROME (R) — A Singapore citizen, flown here from a Thailand prison Monday, has agreed to help investigations into the mafia's lucrative heroin trail from the Far East through Sicily, judicial sources said Tuesday.

They said Singaporean Ko Bak-Kin's link with Sicily was uncovered when 250 kilograms of heroin was discovered on a ship coming through the Suez canal early this year.

The sources said he came voluntarily after being expelled.

Upper Volta coup-makers struggle to maintain power

OUAGADOUGOU (R) — Upper Volta's new leftist military leaders say they have arrested their main political opponent within the armed forces, but there were signs Wednesday their control of the country was not complete.

The National Revolutionary Council (NRC) announced Tuesday night that Col. Gabriel Some Yorian had been arrested after trying to organise military resistance to the coup.

But informed sources said that, despite the arrest of Col. Some Yorian and Maj. Fidele Guebre, described as another "reactionary element", Upper Volta's new strongman, Capt. Thomas Snakara, did not appear to be in full control after the country's sixth coup since independence in 1960.

Another communique issued Tuesday night denied rumours of

"attacks and bombardments", but gunfire could be heard during the night in Ouagadougou and the country's main airport and land borders remained closed.

Residents of Ouagadougou described the atmosphere as tense due to lack of information about the firing.

The informed sources said negotiations were continuing between leftist officers who toppled moderate President Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo on Thursday and the capital's inter-arms regiment, which they said refused to recognise the NRC.

They believed Col. Some Yorian, who was Mr. Ouedraogo's chief of staff with ministerial rank after holding top positions under previous administrations, had presidential ambitions, the sources said.

Great train robber marks 54th birthday in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Great train robber Rodoaldo Biggs celebrated his 54th birthday — and his 18th year evading British justice — Monday night among friends at a party above the Bay of Rio.

Twenty years ago to the day, Biggs was in a gang that robbed the night mail train from Scotland to London of £2 million. It was Britain's biggest robbery — and Biggs' 34th birthday.

"We took it as a good omen at the time," he said, above the

sound of the Beatles on the record-player. "I'd just won £500 on the horses, we took that as a good omen too."

"It's funny to think but at 11 o'clock this morning 20 years ago I was knee-deep in money," said Biggs, resplendent in a Union Jack tee-shirt.

Biggs began a 30-year jail sentence for the robbery but in 1965 escaped from London's Wandsworth prison. He gave police the slip again in Australia and in 1970 arrived in Brazil.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palermo looks for Lebanese bomb expert

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Magistrates investigating the car-bomb murder of four people here last month have ordered the arrest of a Lebanese explosives expert alleged to have been hired by the mafia killers, judicial sources said. The magistrates also issued arrest warrants for three fugitive members of a Sicilian mafia family whom they accuse of planning the explosion which killed a magistrate, two policemen and a doorman. Judicial sources said the Lebanese, whose name was not disclosed, had been detained in Palermo last week along with a Greek female companion. He was being charged with conspiracy to commit multiple murder, on behalf of the three Greco cousins Salvatore, Michele and Salvatore Junior. Two Palermo furniture dealers have also been arrested and charged in connection with the car-bomb case.

Yoko Ono sues 'girlie' magazine

NEW YORK (R) — Yoko Ono filed a law suit Tuesday to try to prevent Swank, a "girlie" magazine, from publishing nude photographs of her and her late husband, singer John Lennon. She and Manhattan photographer Allan Tanenbaum sought the return of the photographs along with \$4 million in damages. Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Stanley Parness signed an order calling on the magazine to show why it should not be barred from using the photos. John Gazetta, the attorney who filed the suit, said the photos were among several hundred taken by Tanenbaum in November 1980 with the consent of the Lennos who retained the rights to their use. In London, meanwhile, an upright piano on which John Lennon composed many of the 60s Beatles' famous songs is to be sold by auction next month. Sotheby's the auctioneers, have listed the broadwood piano at £10,000 to 15,000 (\$15,000 to 22,500).

Swaziland removes queen regent

MBABANE (R) — Queen regent Dzelwe has been removed as head of state in the little African kingdom of Swaziland, the government gazette announced Wednesday. It said she would be succeeded immediately by another widow of the late King Sobhuza, named Ntombi. The announcement followed a power struggle between Dzelwe, who had ruled since King Sobhuza died last August, and various princes and government figures said by diplomatic sources to be seeking a more constitutional monarchy. The government gazette gave no further details of the removal of Dzelwe, believed to be in her 50s.

Bomb damages Milan-Palermo express

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — A bomb exploded under a train carrying more than 1,000 people near Florence Tuesday night, damaging the locomotive but causing no injuries, police said. The bomb shattered windows of the Milan-Palermo overnight express as it approached a tunnel north of the city. Police said a similar incident occurred on the same stretch of track five years ago, in 1974, 12 people were killed when a bomb exploded in a carriage of the Italian express near Bologna.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ62 ♥AJ2 ♦Q52 ♣95
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Dble Rdbld 2 ♣
?

What action do you take?
A.—If you answered that you don't know, you are right! Partner has promised another bid with his redouble. If he does not have a spade fit, your best result could be obtained by doubling the enemy, even at a low level. Pass, and allow partner to make the decision.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AJ83 ♥92 ♦K982 ♣A87
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♣ Dble Pass 1 ♣
Pass?

What action do you take?
A.—You have a minimum takeout double, and there is only one way to show that—you must pass at this turn. If you raised to two spades, you are abowing about an ace more than you actually hold.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠8 ♥J9542 ♦8762 ♣763
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Dble Rdbld ?
What action do you take?

A.—If you elected to pass, you need to hush up on your basic bidding theory. There is a distinct danger that, if you take no action, partner will run to one spade, and that is hardly where you want to play the hand. Bid one heart. That promises nothing in the way of strength—it simply tells partner that you have a strong preference for hearts over any other suit.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠8762 ♥KJ93 ♦765 ♣94
The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South
1 ♣ Dble Rdbld ?
What action do you take?

A.—The last problem should steer you to the right answer to this one. Despite the fact that you have two honors in hearts, you cannot be sure that you want to play the hand in that strain. Since you have support for all three unbid suits, you want to play in partner's best suit. Pass, and let partner choose.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ5 ♥AK7 ♦A983 ♣J73
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♣ Dble Pass 1 ♣
Pass?

What action do you take?
A.—A cue-bid of two hearts would be acceptable, but it would be our second choice, because you might have trouble later in the auction convincing partner that you have a flat hand with two heart stoppers. We feel that slam is unlikely unless partner has more than a minimum opening bid. Had East passed, you would have responded three no trump, we suggest that you should still make that bid—it describes your holding exactly and leaves it up to partner to make a move.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠7 ♥A982 ♦KQ10953 ♣J6
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
A.—We would not fault you greatly if you elected to jump to three diamonds, but that runs the risk of missing a 4-4 heart spot. We would start with two clubs—the Stayman Convention. If opener does not show a heart suit, we would make one more move with three diamonds. That leaves open all our options—we can play in no trump, hearts or diamonds, and we have also made a mild try for slam.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

AQUACADE

By Bernard Gordon

ACROSS
1 Tactics
2 Goshawk
3 Goshawk
4 Marine menace
5 Land for
6 Cupid
7 Where Van Gogh
8 Certain coins
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